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Thursday, April 8, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 29

Summer's a-comin'

Nic Hume photo

Budget breakdown
Tuition fees go up, up and away

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Life after graduation
Two success stories of escaping academia

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Hot man makeover
From fashion drop-out to metrosexual

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Budget burdens students

BY SARAH PETRESCU

Erik Haensel stood among a meagre group of three students outside the University Centre on Monday, April 5, while the Board of Governors met to approve the university budget and a 16.6 per cent tuition increase.

"I didn't expect many people," said Haensel, director of academics for the UVic Student's Society. "But that doesn't mean they don't care. I meet people everyday who have been hurt by tuition increases."

The Board of Governors (BOG) is responsible for all fees and student aid, administering university assets and approving the university budget. It is made up of elected student, faculty and staff representatives as well as government appointees.

Over the past two years, the BOG's annual budget approval has drawn dozens of students protesting tuition hikes.

In 2002, students shook macaroni boxes at board members in protest of a 30 per cent tuition hike. As the pasta rattling grew to a pitched fervor, some agitated activists tore open their packets and pelted board members with the dried macaroni. The board members fled and finished their meeting behind closed doors.

Last year, students were warned not to disturb the meeting. A few sat in the audience gagged with "Reduce tuition fees" stickers over their mouths as a silent protest.

"Students are burnt out," said Joanna Groves, UVSS Director of Finance. "They're tired of not being listened to."

Listening to students proved tedious for a few BOG members, who shuffled papers and paid little attention to Groves and single-mother Nicole Lindsay as they relayed hardship stories of students affected by tuition increases.

Or perhaps the members were using the few minutes to read over the budget they were about to vote on. BOG member Michelle Kinney asked why they were voting on such an important document without time to scrutinize it thoroughly.

"Why are we receiving this document just a few minutes before we're asked to pass it?" Kinney asked board chair Eric Donald and UVic President David Turpin, without much response.

Kinney voted against the budget, along with fellow student representative Basil Alexander and staff representative Jill Tate, who urged her fellow members to take a stand for students. The budget passed by a 11-3 vote regardless, approving increases in parking costs, rent and family housing as well as tuition.

Later, the board unanimously voted in favour of a motion by Kinney to send a letter to the provincial government urging the swift implementation of the grant replacement program, promised when grants were cut in February. "Passing this motion at least shows this university is not a mouthpiece of the provincial government," said Groves after the budget meeting. "I'm happy they did something."

SARAH PETRESCU PHOTO

UVic president David Turpin talks to reporters about the latest UVic budget.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

UVic's operating budget for 2004–05 is a hefty $224.7 million. Over one half of the budget is subsidized by a provincial government grant of $123.8 million. Tuition accounts for 34 percent of operating revenue. B.C. universities are required by law to balance their budgets. This year, administrators shuffled numbers to meet new government seat requirements and boost financial aid. The following are budget highlights:

- Tuition will rise to $4,238 from $3,635, a 16.6 per cent increase for arts and science undergrads.
- International students will pay 13.6 per cent more and grad students' tuition will increase by seven per cent.
- An increase of $2,009,500 in student financial aid, including a one-time allocation of $900,000.
- The addition of 372 full-time undergraduate and graduate students.
- $400,000 to library improvements.

Although university administrators say they are committed to acting in the best interest of the poorest students, families get nickel and dimed in the budget:

- Rent in family housing will increase by 4.9 and 7 per cent.
- Child care fees will increase by 0.98 and 1.14 per cent.
- After school care will increase between 8.6 and nine per cent.
- Parking on-campus will increase by an average of 15 percent.

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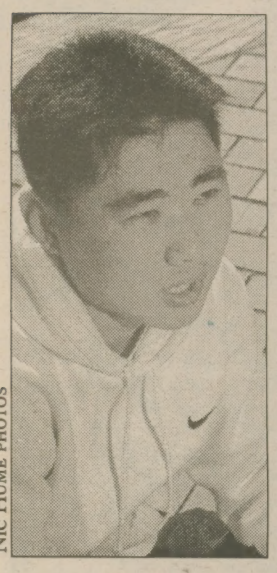
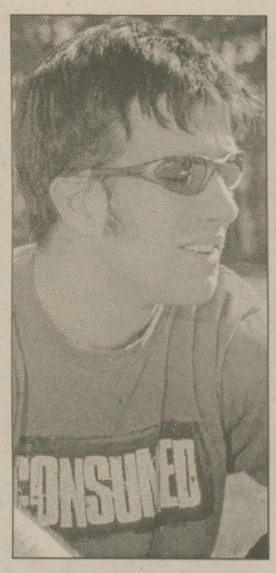
UVic students respond to hikes compiled by Patrick White

What do you think of the tuition increase?

Nic Hume photos

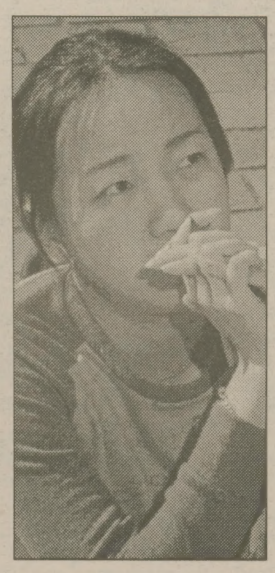


Alex Yan, 3rd year, Economics
It's crazy to increase it year after year. It's really bad for us. I just transferred here from Kwantlen last year. I looked at UBC and SFU, but I came here because tuition was a little cheaper. Now it's all about the same.



Chris Tihor, 4th year, Math
People are getting less educated because it costs too much.

Whenever something like that goes up it has to come out somewhere else. Either you have to find a cheaper place or not spend as much on the entertainment budget. The money you make during the summer isn't going up 16 per cent.



Li Lian, 3rd year, Economics
I'm an international student from China, so it's worse for me. It really poses a problem. (Tuition for international students has increased from $11,000 to $12,500.)

Marie Mallis, 3rd year, Political Science
If you don't have family support, you're fucked.

I got a student loan this year and the entire thing went toward tuition, which left me nothing to live [on]. Thank god I have a Visa, that's all I have to say.

I want to come back to school next year but I honestly don't know if I can afford it and that's never occurred to me before.

Starr Levesque, 4th year, Pacific and Asian Studies
I'm definitely hurrying up to graduate. I'm not taking my time anymore.

I'm not doing a minor anymore just because it's too expensive now. I was going to do one, and I started it, but then it was going to end up being another 5,000 bucks.

Lauren Smith, 2nd year, Political Science and Environmental Studies
Not only do you work all summer, but during school as well and I still don't have enough money to buy textbooks. It's a little rough.

I think it has affected my marks this term.

Jenn Welsh, 4th year, Environmental Studies
It's making education inaccessible for all. They need to open up discussion and dialogue regarding tuition, student grants and bursaries.

I'm glad I'm taking my last class right now.

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Premier Campbell and Ford engineer Phil Chizek (right) discuss the B.C.-made Ballard fuel cell powering this hydrogen car.

Hydrogen highway hoopla

BY BRYNA HALLAM

B.C. highways may soon resemble the Jetson's space-age TV show with the introduction of the Hydrogen Highway. The federal and provincial governments have put their weight behind plans for the development of hydrogen-fuelled transportation in B.C., including hydrogen-powered cars and hydrogen fuel stations.

Premier Gordon Campbell and Prime Minister Paul Martin announced plans last week to use the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver to showcase and promote hydrogen energy, with the federal government committing six million dollars in investments to make the project a reality.

Campbell and Martin announced the plan at the Globe conference on business and the environment, saying it is part of a plan to make the 2010 Olympics the "most sustainable games in history."

"Hydrogen technology is part of our commitment to responding to climate change and creating new economic opportunities," said Martin.

The plans for the Hydrogen Highway call for a series of refuelling stations to be built from Vancouver to Whistler, with an extension to Victoria. It is hoped the project will demonstrate the operational, economic, environmental and social feasibility of a hydrogen fuelling system.

Martin said the ultimate goal of the project lies far beyond the Olympics, comparing the current trend towards alternative energy sources to the space race. "Today we are in a similar space race," he said. "A race to clean sustainable living space on earth."

The projects will demonstrate a range of applications, from transportation to heating and cooling systems for buildings.

UVic is also involved, with the director of the university's Institute of Integrated Energy Systems (IESVic), Dr. Ned Djilali, sitting on the BC Hydrogen Highway steering committee.

Lawrence Pitt, research coordinator for IESVic, says the plan is in its very early days, and nothing firm has been planned yet.

"We're at the brainstorming stage," he said. "There's a lot of excitement."

Pitt likens the endeavour to the showcasing of electricity at the Paris World's Fair in the late nineteenth century. "That's the level we're at here," he said, "illustrating an emerging technology."

Pitt also believes that tying the demonstration to the Olympics will give the issue some good exposure and allow B.C. to showcase its hydrogen cell industry. "It's like when you fix a squeaky bathroom door when visitors come," he said. "You don't always do it for yourself."

Pitt is excited about the project, but also notes there is a boring side to it as well, as things such as sites and permits–"the unsexy stuff"–have to be considered.

"The holy grail of fuel cells is transportation," said Pitt. "It gives us the biggest bang for our buck, but it is also the biggest challenge." Things such as an economy built around fossil fuels have led some to believe that the economic, environmental, and social benefits of fuel cells are not widely understood, effectively hindering investment and support.

The report of the BC Climate Change Economic Impacts panel says the provincial government should work with industry to address some of those concerns and develop a strategic plan for the growth of B.C.'s fuel cell industry.

"A key element of that plan would see the government make a long-term commitment to the hydrogen economy and develop a plan for enabling transition," reads the report. The report suggests the government could participate actively in fuel cell demonstration programs in the public and private sectors. There are currently a number of demonstration opportunities available, such as the BC Hydro-led Hydrogen Highway, the Burnaby hydrogen and fuel cell cluster, and other infrastructure projects.

The B.C. government appears to be taking this recommendation to heart, with the announcement of the Hydrogen Highway plan coming only days after the report's release.

A number of other governments have also made moves towards hydrogen energy research. President Bush recently announced an investment of $1.2 billion US to support the transition to hydrogen vehicles and the necessary refueling infrastructure.

California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has pledged to build hydrogen fuel stations every 20 miles along major highways, allowing motorists to buy clean-burning hydrogen-fueled vehicles without fear they will run out of gas. According to Environmental Protection Secretary Terry Tamminen, the year 2010 has become a goal for automakers who have said such vehicles will be affordable and readily available.

Pitt hopes the province's Hydrogen Highway will maintain B.C.'s position as a leading place in fuel cell work. He noted that Japan and many European countries have "staggering" fuel cell programs. "Without time, money and manpower, we're not going to keep our edge," he said.

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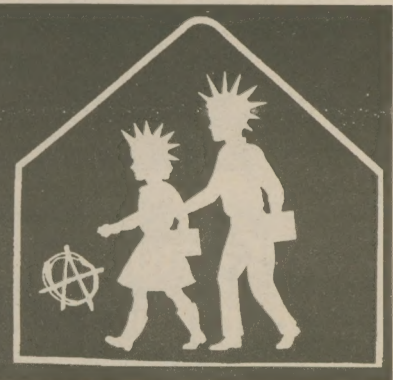

Live simply that others may simply live

Grant replacement program in distant future

by Sarah Petrescu

Students shouldn't hold their breath awaiting the grant replacement program promised by the BC Liberals at their Feb. 17 budget announcement, according to Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond.

Bond assures students a grant replacement program is in the works, but implementation is still far off. "My staff is looking at other grant programs across the country to see what works," said Bond. "I can't say for sure when the program will be in place."

The provincial government cut the existing $30 million program, which provided up-front grants to needy students. At the budget announcement, Finance Minister Gary Collins said loan remission and post-degree grant programs would be instated. However, since that announcement the provincial government has made little mention of the promised programs. Currently, B.C. is the only province in Canada without a grant program.

"We are consulting our stakeholders, including students, to make sure we create a program that works for them," said Bond.

Jim Vanstone, former director of student services for the Ministry of Advanced Education, is heading the consultation. Vanstone has asked the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), one of the many critics of the grant cuts, to submit a recommendation for the replacement program. Michael Gardiner, B.C. organizer for the CFS, said participating in the new program is problematic, considering they oppose the elimination of the existing program.

"When you start from the position of saying a decision like this [cutting grants] is bad public policy, then decide to participate in it because it is going to go ahead anyway, there is a bit of a conflict," said Gardiner.

Gardiner said the CFS will participate in the grant replacement program anyway and are working on their recommendation. "What we recommend will probably be very close to the program they cut," said Gardiner. "A lot of what we will recommend will be what the program shouldn't look like."

Gardiner suggested cutting out private institutions from grant eligibility to provide more funds for students attending public institutions.

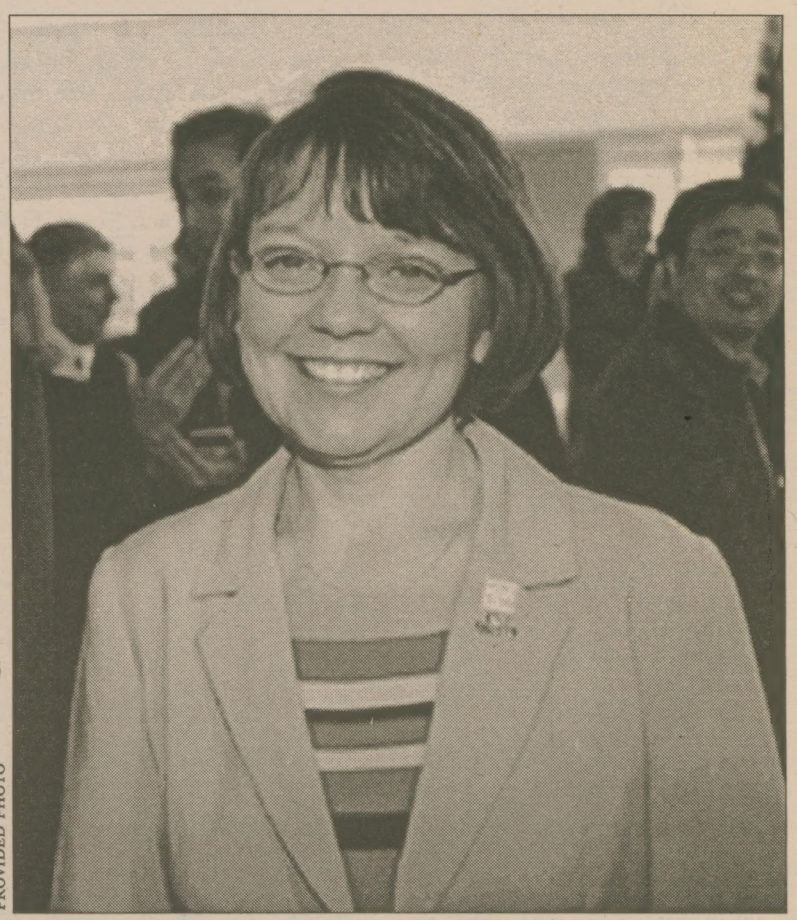
"The existing grant program essentially subsidized private institutions," said Gardiner. "If the provincial government and the Millennium Scholarship Foundation cut off private schools, that money could go to the grant program."

Funding for the grant replacement program is not accounted for in the Ministry of Education budget this year or next.

"I have a fixed envelope of funds to work with," said Minister Bond. "We'll do the best we can with what we have."

Gardiner is optimistic the ministry will strongly consider recommendations from the CFS in creating the grant replacement program.

"The decision to eliminate grants was a financial one, not ideological. I think the government will realize students need all the help they can get," said Gardiner. "Plus, there is an election next year and we are hopeful they will come through to mend their image with students."



PROVIDED PHOTO

Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond said a program to replace cancelled grants is in the future, but she's not sure when.

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WHEN: Wednesday, April 21st.
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PANELISTS:
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- Dr. Bob Sindelar, Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UBC
- Dr. Victor Ling, VP Research, BC Cancer Agency
- Dr. Ben Koop, Professor & Director, Centre for Biomedical Research, UVic

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News briefs

Rally at the courts

Five women from the BC Coalition of Women's Centres who were arrested at the Legislature last month will be making their first court appearance on April 15. The women were arrested and charged with "assault by trespass" after staging a sit-in following a meeting with Minister of State for Women's Equality, Ida Chong. The BCCW5, as the women are referred to by supporters, were protesting the provincial government's decision to cut women's centre funding.

A rally to support the women at their court appearance will take place at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Victoria Law Courts on April 15.

Cheaters fess up in survey

The preliminary results for the UVic Academic Integrity Survey are in. Nearly 4,000 students and faculty participated in the survey, saying there is a general climate of trust and respect at the university. Twenty per cent of students admitted to cheating and 49 per cent confessed to copying material without citing sources. However, written comments in the survey revealed many students are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism.

UVic study questions memories

A UVic study has called into question the reliability of memories.

Forty-five first-year psychology students were told three stories about their grade-school experiences and asked about their memories of them. Two of the accounts were of real grade three to six events recounted to the researchers by the participant's parents. The third event was fictitious, but also attributed to the parents.

The study found that a "staggering" two-out-of-three participants accepted the false grade-school event as having really happened to them when suggestions regarding the event were supplemented with a class photo.

Summering with an African epidemic

BY PATRICK WHITE

PATRICK WHITE PHOTO

Ashley Heaslip's idea of a good summer holiday is going to a sham-democracy country to study AIDS and HIV.

When Ashley Heaslip's parents dragged her around developing countries on holidays as a kid, maybe they anticipated she would return one day by herself.

But they probably hoped she wouldn't opt for Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries situated in an area known for political instability and violence.

Heaslip, a UVic political science student, is headed to the southeastern African country this summer on an internship with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and expects to conduct AIDS research with local university students.

"It doesn't frighten me," said Heaslip at the prospect of working in one of the more dangerous regions of the world. Though Malawi's history of violence pales in comparison to neighbouring Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, some aid agencies have stopped assisting the country because of the shaky foundations of its 10-year-old democratic government.

"My family was not the kind of family to go to five-star resorts. That's probably one reason why I'm into going places others wouldn't consider for a vacation," said Heaslip. "It's really no different than going to the U.S., where you have to be worried about terrorist attacks."

Her family is more worried about the many health issues present in the country than anything else. Heaslip has had six immunization shots. "You're constantly surrounded by people with HIV. You just have to be really, really careful."

All WUSC interns have to carry around a medical kit containing sterilized equipment that they can convince doctors in Malawi to use on them in case of an injury.

Following a two-day flight from Ottawa to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, 19-year-old Heaslip will spend a week looking at projects completed by past WUSC groups, gathering research and taking cultural lessons. After that, she'll live for four weeks with a Malawian family while she works with local university students studying the epidemic of AIDS and HIV in the country. Malawi currently has the eighth highest rate of AIDS in the world, with around 15 per cent of the population infected.

Heaslip anticipates that her work will focus on cultural misconceptions of sexuality in the country.

"There are a lot of misconceptions in the country about children and youth, like the idea that sex with a virgin gets rid of HIV," she said. This misconception has led to girls as young as five months admitted to rape crisis centres in nearby South Africa.

Once Heaslip finishes her research, she'll prepare a report to be forwarded to the Canadian International Development Agency. "It makes some kind of small contribution." said Heaslip.

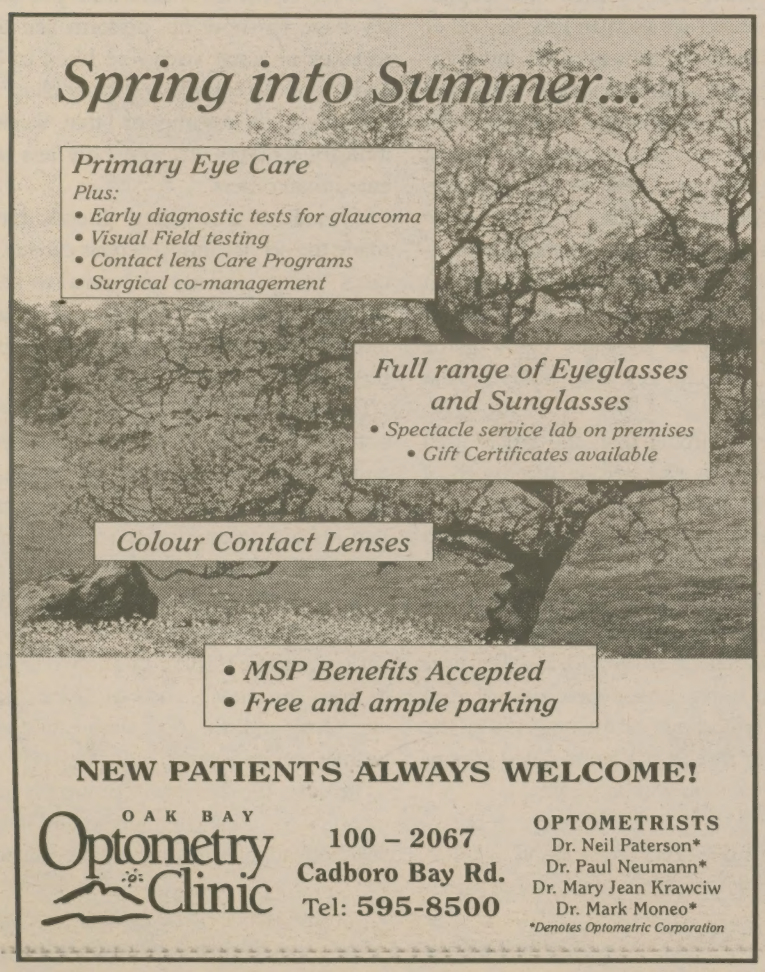
"In doing this, I am hoping to develop some sort of HIV/AIDS education program targeted specifically at youth."

Heaslip has done her research on international involvement in Africa and is critical of the Bush administration's record in Africa, despite the recent promise of $15 billion in U.S. aid. "Five billion of that is going towards promoting abstinence–that's not a solution. Polygamy is a common cultural practice in many parts of Africa. Bush has also said that NGOs [non-governmental organizations] will not receive funding if they do not promote family planning."

The World University Service of Canada is a Canadian NGO that was started in the 1920s by a group of students at the University of Toronto who were concerned about post-WW I development in Europe. They support international education programs across Canada. Past interns include former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, federal Minister of Environment David Anderson, and David Dodge, the governor of the Bank of Canada.

Heaslip, who is president of the UVic chapter of WUSC, was actually working in Anderson's office when she found out she had been accepted. "He got very excited when he found out I was going," said Heaslip.

Heaslip credits the UVic community with making her trip possible. A significant portion of the $8,500 she needed for the trip came from various UVic departments.



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EDITORIAL

The end is near

It's an awful time of year. Students slump from one exam to the next, carrying crib sheets and cold viruses with them. Everyone's stressed. Even the ducks and rabbits on campus are giving one another mean looks, preparing for some sort of a gang-style turf war. And above, in the blue sky, the sun shines on as if it's already summer.

But soon it'll all pass. It'll all be over, at least for us, because *the Martlet* you clutch in your hands is the last paper of the year. That means it's time for this crotchety, world-weary editor to say his last words.

Lots of people are drawn to this strange project called journalism because they're angry about the world. I know I was when I first entered *the Martlet* office three years ago, my head stuffed full of righteous slogans and condemnations of authority. But if piss and vinegar are the primary fuel supplies for the student press, they're also volatile substances to be handled with care. Abuse them and you won't just burn yourself and others, you'll set the whole damn thing aflame.

Last year I sat and swilled beer with a writing professor. He said that a few years ago, writers for *the Martlet* seemed to believe so fervently in their own convictions, you couldn't trust them.

That perception is what I've tried my damnedest to fight over the course of this year, and I'm proud that everyone from veteran environmental activists to BC Young Liberals have picked up the paper and felt they weren't being fed a load of spin. Crotchety columnists have even described us as a "real newspaper."

The point isn't that there aren't things worth caring about in the world. It's that when you boil it all down, this whole journalism business depends on trust. A leap of faith. If sources don't trust us to be fair and accurate, they won't talk. And unless readers believe what we write, there isn't much point to the whole endeavour.

Of course, there are some people on campus who won't look me in the eye. I have no regrets. I don't owe my allegiance to student politicians, campus ideologues, or anyone who takes themselves so seriously they've forgotten how to laugh. This paper isn't written for those who've already made up their minds about how the world works. It's for those willing to listen. Change. Grow.

The Martlet is built on the blood, sweat and beer of our many volunteers and staff. And we do it all for you, dear reader. Numerous souls have passed through our doors only to find we've stolen their lives. I was one.

As I now pry myself free and crawl towards the light of day, I'm left with mixed feelings–relief, anxiety, sadness. After six years at UVic, I've learned that campus is a strange, wonderful place; I've also learned that I can't wait to get the hell out. I've learned to live with these contradictions.

But since a newspaper would be nothing without its readers, especially ones who so persistently catch our mistakes and demand us to do better, my final thanks go out to you.

Yours,

–John Thompson,
Editor-in-Chief, 2003–4.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Single parents and welfare

I read *the Martlet* yesterday–one of the few times I've done so since I graduated from UVic last spring. I grew to like *the Martlet* more as I moved from first year to fourth year, mostly because I began to see a slightly less extremist view being put forward by the paper.

However, I was frustrated to read, again, an example of *Martlet* writers spouting off without being informed about the issue. And for that matter, activists acting off (that's my own phrase by the way) without being informed. I would like to point out one specific reference Patrick White made to activists protesting against, among other things, upcoming $100 reductions to single parents' welfare cheques. If he had actually done any research, he would know there are no upcoming reductions to anyone's cheques, including single parents.

This rumour is growing because of the welfare sanctions that are in place for single parents with children over the age of three, who are not looking for work or taking some kind of employment-related course or program.

While people with no children may become ineligible for assistance if they aren't making efforts to find work, single- and two-parent families, who have been on assistance for over 24 months, may receive a $100 reduction in their cheques if they aren't making those efforts. That's a big "if."

If they're looking for work or taking training–no problem. If they are a single parent whose youngest child is under three–no need to seek work in the first place. Whether or not one agrees with these stipulations, they're certainly much more reasonable and easier on single parents than this across-the-board $100 reduction rumour that people, such as Mr. White and others, are spreading. They hear "$100 reduction" and totally ignore the context. This is NOT good for single parent income assistance clients to hear! It causes all sorts of needless anxiety–in the same way that the NDP's bogus time limits numbers did. Whether or not you agree with a given policy, you should have the correct information and not spread suggestions that lead to inflammatory fear.

Noelle King

Karate coverage below the belt

As a member of the Canadian Shotokan Karate Association, I was dismayed by the lack of perspective given in the article, "Knudsen Breaks Faces, Wins Glory" which appeared in the March 25 issue of *the Martlet*. Stories like this utterly misrepresent the art of Karate and ignore its rich history and tradition in favour of focusing on the rare and sensational aspects of the sport.

Karate is a combination of athleticism and aesthetic with practitioners spending years training to perfect technique so that they might perform well in both Kata and Kumite competition. Points are awarded for precision and strategy in each event, not for the level of violence one competitor can inflict on another. Like any other sport there is an element of risk involved-mistakes are made and injuries occur, but they are so rare that in seven years with the organization, I have never witnessed a serious mishap. There are no muggings from behind, no sticks to the head or elbows to the face, yet the media continues to single out the martial arts as a sport of thugs. When was the last time *the Martlet* covered a Vikes rugby game based entirely on the injuries that occurred?

More disturbing than the article itself was the author's assertion that much of what he wrote, points that might have provided some scope, were omitted and that the headline was embellished to make the subject matter light-hearted. Either the staff was attempting to be ironic, in which case I would ask that they keep in mind most people do not read with a critical eye, or the crassness of the headline reveals a community's continued fascination with violence.

Regardless, I hope it is clear that breaking faces does NOT win glory, but then neither does a flagrantly specious headline.

Timothy Trebilcock

A+ to Students and Profs!

With the exception of a few, most students and professors who had classes in the Clearihue Building this term, returned their chairs and desks to row formation after class.

This made it a lot easier for the janitors to keep the classrooms clean; the less time we have to spend reorganizing furniture, the more time we have to clean. Thanks so much, keep up the good work. Have a great summer!

Katherine Williams

Service workers are not monkeys

I take exception to some comments made in Tracey Coulter's commentary in the April 1 edition of *the Martlet*. Having logged ten years as a waitress, cook and retail clerk (sometimes all three at once), I agree that pay is low, appreciation limited, and your feet are damn sore.

However, her comments that "you simply have to show up, perform like the monkey in a suit you were hired to be and try not to rob the company blind" is classist in its assumption that service industry workers are somehow less talented than others.

My partner and many friends have made the service industry their careers. It takes "unique abilities and traits" to be a talented cook or chef, superb and refined interpersonal skills to be a professional server.

To imply that the service industry is bottom of the pile for work is dangerous and perpetuates an attitude on campus I have witnessed over the last few years: god forbid you end up as a "burger flipper," implying a university graduate could imagine nothing worse than joining the ranks of the working class.

It sounds like Coulter has drawn heavily from the movies such as *Office Space* and *Clerks* and not those who take pride in their service career.

I'm sure the hundreds of people on campus who cook your burgers and serve you beer appreciate your monkey analogy.

Sincerely, J. Nicole Little (a once, and maybe again, damn fine waitress)

News briefs

Rally at the courts

Five women from the BC Coalition of Women's Centres who were arrested at the Legislature last month will be making their first court appearance on April 15. The women were arrested and charged with "assault by trespass" after staging a sit-in following a meeting with Minister of State for Women's Equality, Ida Chong. The BCCW5, as the women are referred to by supporters, were protesting the provincial government's decision to cut women's centre funding.

A rally to support the women at their court appearance will take place at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Victoria Law Courts on April 15.

Cheaters fess up in survey

The preliminary results for the UVic Academic Integrity Survey are in. Nearly 4,000 students and faculty participated in the survey, saying there is a general climate of trust and respect at the university. Twenty per cent of students admitted to cheating and 49 per cent confessed to copying material without citing sources. However, written comments in the survey revealed many students are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism.

UVic study questions memories

A UVic study has called into question the reliability of memories.

Forty-five first-year psychology students were told three stories about their grade-school experiences and asked about their memories of them. Two of the accounts were of real grade three to six events recounted to the researchers by the participant's parents. The third event was fictitious, but also attributed to the parents.

The study found that a "staggering" two-out-of-three participants accepted the false grade-school event as having really happened to them when suggestions regarding the event were supplemented with a class photo.

Summering with an African epidemic

BY PATRICK WHITE

PATRICK WHITE PHOTO

Ashley Heaslip's idea of a good summer holiday is going to a sham-democracy country to study AIDS and HIV.

When Ashley Heaslip's parents dragged her around developing countries on holidays as a kid, maybe they anticipated she would return one day by herself.

But they probably hoped she wouldn't opt for Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries situated in an area known for political instability and violence.

Heaslip, a UVic political science student, is headed to the southeastern African country this summer on an internship with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and expects to conduct AIDS research with local university students.

"It doesn't frighten me," said Heaslip at the prospect of working in one of the more dangerous regions of the world. Though Malawi's history of violence pales in comparison to neighbouring Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, some aid agencies have stopped assisting the country because of the shaky foundations of its 10-year-old democratic government.

"My family was not the kind of family to go to five-star resorts. That's probably one reason why I'm into going places others wouldn't consider for a vacation," said Heaslip. "It's really no different than going to the U.S., where you have to be worried about terrorist attacks."

Her family is more worried about the many health issues present in the country than anything else. Heaslip has had six immunization shots. "You're constantly surrounded by people with HIV. You just have to be really, really careful."

All WUSC interns have to carry around a medical kit containing sterilized equipment that they can convince doctors in Malawi to use on them in case of an injury.

Following a two-day flight from Ottawa to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, 19-year-old Heaslip will spend a week looking at projects completed by past WUSC groups, gathering research and taking cultural lessons. After that, she'll live for four weeks with a Malawian family while she works with local university students studying the epidemic of AIDS and HIV in the country. Malawi currently has the eighth highest rate of AIDS in the world, with around 15 per cent of the population infected.

Heaslip anticipates that her work will focus on cultural misconceptions of sexuality in the country.

"There are a lot of misconceptions in the country about children and youth, like the idea that sex with a virgin gets rid of HIV," she said. This misconception has led to girls as young as five months admitted to rape crisis centres in nearby South Africa.

Once Heaslip finishes her research, she'll prepare a report to be forwarded to the Canadian International Development Agency. "It makes some kind of small contribution." said Heaslip.

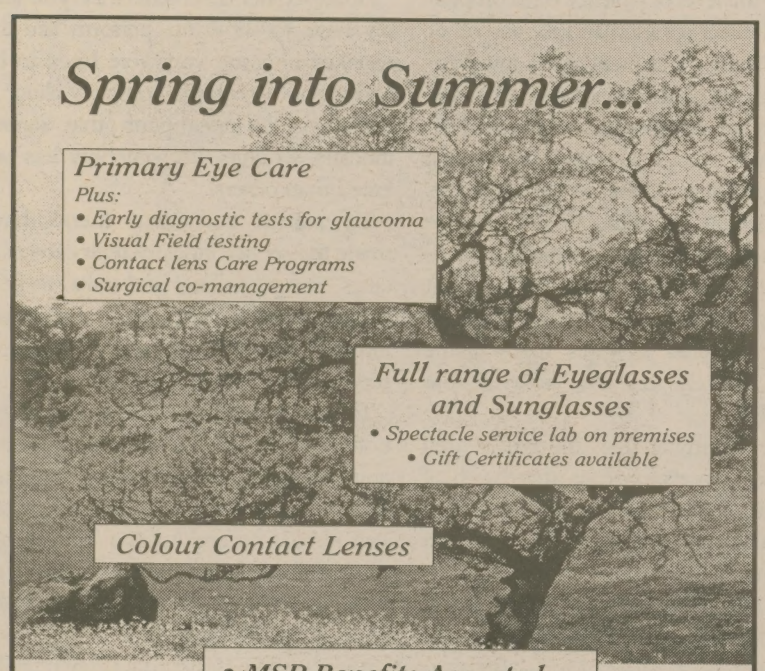
"In doing this, I am hoping to develop some sort of HIV/AIDS education program targeted specifically at youth."

Heaslip has done her research on international involvement in Africa and is critical of the Bush administration's record in Africa, despite the recent promise of $15 billion in U.S. aid. "Five billion of that is going towards promoting abstinence–that's not a solution. Polygamy is a common cultural practice in many parts of Africa. Bush has also said that NGOs [non-governmental organizations] will not receive funding if they do not promote family planning."

The World University Service of Canada is a Canadian NGO that was started in the 1920s by a group of students at the University of Toronto who were concerned about post-WW I development in Europe. They support international education programs across Canada. Past interns include former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, federal Minister of Environment David Anderson, and David Dodge, the governor of the Bank of Canada.

Heaslip, who is president of the UVic chapter of WUSC, was actually working in Anderson's office when she found out she had been accepted. "He got very excited when he found out I was going," said Heaslip.

Heaslip credits the UVic community with making her trip possible. A significant portion of the $8,500 she needed for the trip came from various UVic departments.



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UVic protestors silence WTO ambassador

BY CECILIA LEI

How many World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiators have you ever seen on campus?

Well, I saw one on April 1, but I didn't hear him.

Sergio Marchi, a former federal cabinet minister and Canadian Ambassador to the WTO, came to UVic with the intention to speak about the current global trade climate.

His plans went awry, however, when protesters stormed the room about 10 minutes into his talk.

Marchi's speech was mostly drowned in a sea of protests, despite appeals from Marchi, the organizers and the audience to let him finish the talk and field questions afterward.

So here's the scenario: the WTO pays very little attention to the concerns of the public, and the protestors largely ignored those of the audience.

Given that one protestor was concerned with the lack of public voice in the WTO negotiations, isn't there a strong irony in asking to be heard while suppressing the voices of others in the same breath? By preventing others from speaking, are protestors doing the same thing they argue the WTO does to public participation?

So what was accomplished?

Well, Marchi likely won't ever set foot on our campus again. For that matter, no WTO negotiators in their right mind will think about giving a public lecture at UVic.

So not only have the protestors robbed UVic students from voicing any sort of dialogue on this matter, but concerned citizens had no chance of using such public forums to find out more about details of the negotiations, all of which happen behind closed doors. So the democratic deficit has just increased exponentially.

What was the alternative?

People could have listened and taken notes during Marchi's talk, and then asked him some tough questions. I know many in the audience who were ready to probe him with insightful questions.

The truth is, Marchi was very courageous to have shown up. In a way, he was taking some responsibility for his role as former ambassador. Like I asked earlier, how many WTO negotiators have you ever seen on campus?

The protestors are also to be commended for showing solidarity and sending a strong message to international trade negotiators, who too often ignore the issues raised by concerned citizens. There is also something to be said about not conforming to the prescribed discourse format, but I argue that this was a less strategic option in this case.

This incident raises a more fundamental question–when should we give up on dialogue, and when, if ever, is one justified to use force to counter force?

Here's the essence of what a colleague told me a couple of weeks ago: absolute violence creates silence.

On a positive note, I do think an opportunity opened up that has the potential to move us forward. An aboriginal person informed Marchi during the question period that the aboriginal representatives at the table should be hereditary chiefs, not the chief and council prescribed under the Indian Act. Marchi asked for her contact information, suggesting that he may address the problem with action. Call me a naive optimist, but I hope something came out of that.

Marmot extinction part of negotiations

BY INGMAR LEE

The other night I went to see the film *The Corporation*. The gasps of disgust from the mainstream crowd in the theatre was music to my ears, better than the actual movie.

People are getting it. For battered British Columbia environmentalists after three years of Gordon Campbell, what *The Corporation* uncovers is old news. Nevertheless, I was pleased to see a flash of the Vancouver Island marmot amidst the pathological corporate filth, devastation, exploitation and corruption that the film exposes. I'll take it as recognition for lonely years as a critic of the great "greenwashing" scandal swirling around the extinction of our poor marmot.

The relationship between its imminent extinction and vicious, unrestricted corporate greed is now clearcut straight to the general public in this movie. Who else out there is working to expose this most blatant, on-going crime against nature? For years I've wondered why not even a single environmental organization has taken up the cause of Canada's most significant and most imminent mammalian extinction. Now I know why.

It's simple. B.C.'s large U.S.-funded, transnational, Environmental Non-Government Organizations (ENGO) aka "Enviro-Corps" have quietly signed agreements not to conduct actions against Weyerhaeuser on Vancouver Island, or anywhere else in B.C..

They've been negotiating together for years over the 77,000 square kilometre Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) on B.C.'s central Pacific coast, and now that they've reached a "consensus," they're all on board with Weyerhaeuser. These Enviro-Corps are Forest Ethics, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club and the Rainforest Action Network. The ENGO's deal with Weyerhaeuser is in exchange for protection of just 32 per cent the GBR. They argue that Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) will take place in the rest of the Great Bear wilderness.

What is this EBM? Well we know it isn't the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) B.C. standard, the highest forestry eco-certification standard in the world, which does not certify logging in High Conservation Value (HVC) forests.

Every remaining coastal primeval forest is HCV. FSC also requires that *all* of a company's operations must be working at the FSC standard. EBM logging, whatever it is, will only slightly reduce the status-quo annual allowable cut for the area, which means ongoing industrial clearcutting, Weyerhaeuser-style in Canada's most spectacular wilderness. Although it has yet to be approved by First Nations and the B.C. government, this agreement is already being heralded by big ENGO as a "great victory." Excuse me?

We're talking about the most magnificent intact primeval temperate rainforest ecosystem left on Earth! More than 60 per cent of the planet's temperate rainforest has already been destroyed. What about the conclusions of the team of scientists officially tasked to examine the GBR ecosystem to inform the discussions? Their verdict: at least 45-60 per cent of these final tracts must be preserved intact to protect just 30 per cent of the area's awesome biodiversity. The government appointed this scientific team, but its conclusions have been trumped by corporate greed.

The ENGO agreement with Weyerhaeuser was sufficient to stand down a new joint Canada/U.S. market campaign, which was in the making against the giant American clearcutting corporation. This from the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) website: "Due to the Joint Solution Process in the Great Bear Rainforests of British Columbia, Rainforest Action Network is not targetting Weyerhaeuser's B.C. operations." The RAN campaign is now going ahead in the U.S. alone. This is how Weyerhaeuser is able to destroy what's left of Vancouver Island's magnificent ancient forests with impunity. Weyerhaeuser is now given free-reign to exterminate the final primeval forests of the Vancouver Island's once magnificent Coastal Douglas fir ecosystem, now 97 per cent gone. In 1999 they mowed down massive fir trees right to the boundary of the world-famous Cathedral Grove, which at only 157 hectares, is the largest ancient fir-forest refugia-tuft left on the island. Weyerhaeuser's clearcutting has resulted in a progressive windthrow swath, which continues to "walk" its way through the park. Voracious logging of Vancouver Island marmot habitat goes completely unchallenged by big ENGO.

Weyerhaeuser has systematically clearcut every stick of forest inside the 350 square kilometers of Nanaimo's community drinking-watershed, and it continues to destroy the adjacent sub-alpine forests on the Green Mountain/Gemini Ridge massif. This removal of forest cover has resulted in catastrophic declines in deer populations, and as the clearcuts expand up the mountainsides, the wolves and cougar follow the deer right up to the subalpine marmot colonies. They were still clearcutting on Green Mountain in 2003, while the last marmot in what was previously the largest Vancouver Island marmot colony on the planet went extinct.

There are now less that 20 marmots left in the wild, and with no habitat restoration program whatsoever, the island's wolves, cougar and now Golden Eagles pay the price for insatiable corporate greed in the ongoing B.C. government predator cull.

With this agreement, pot-shots from a ragamuffin horde of volunteer nuisance protesters notwithstanding, Weyerhaeuser can destroy the Walbran Valley in peace, where it continues mowing down 1,000-year-old trees. Last year the 75-year-old great-grandmother Betty Krawczyk spent 9 months in jail for blockading Weyerhaeuser in the Walbran, while the Enviro-Corps looked the other way. Weyerhaeuser can now destroy the ancient forests of East Creek, intact until 2003–now the 85th of 91 Vancouver Island watersheds to face the axe. In 150 years of industrial logging, fully 80 per cent of the island's ancient forests have been logged. Weyerhaeuser is now destroying the forests on the wild Gulf Island jewel of Valdes Island, after which it subdivides the land for real-estate development. Their log-dump on Valdes is situated right on top of an ancient First Nation's village site, and the clam beach which supported it now sports a massive stone breakwater. The world's largest logging company booms its raw export logs alongside Valdes' spectacular sandstone cliffs, to await the arrival of the American tug, which tows them south of the border where Americans saw them into lumber. Weyerhaeuser is responsible for nearly one third of the 3.7 million cubic metres of raw-log exports from B.C. last year.

B.C.'s serious forest issues have not been resolved and tensions are worse than ever. Our forests are facing an unprecedented revved-up industrial holocaust being perpetrated by the logging-loving Gordon Campbell government, which was elected with the generous help of giant forestry corporations. Of Campbell's top 10 election financiers, seven were giant logging companies, with Weyerhaeuser as his #3 most generous donor. Now it's payback time, and with Campbell's "Working Forest initiative" 43 million hectares of British Columbia is slated for total logging.

That's why it was so important that the Vancouver Island marmot appeared in *The Corporation*. While Weyerhaeuser may have bought themselves a B.C. government, as well as the farcical Marmot Recovery Program that they control, the public is now onto their culpability in the extinction of the marmot, in spite of the muzzlement of the big Enviro-Corps.

Ingmar Lee is a 21-year professional treeplanter who has planted more than 1,000,000 trees in British Columbia. He is currently a student of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria.

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Summer of rhyme

A smattering of UVic poets

"The best poetry is the best words in the best order." –*Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

Stupid high school English teachers put too many folk off poetry.

But don't worry: poetry isn't as scary as you think. It's a beautiful art form–it's not all about hearts and flowers, and *not* all poetry rhymes. There are poems about summer, miners, a mother's nipples, rats, orioles, neighbours, toads, waitresses, World War I, churches, bearhugs, vacant lots, Marilyn Monroe, and cooking. There are poems about everything you might be interested in, and it's all accessible.

You don't need to be able to find a "deeper meaning" in a poem to love it. Pay attention to the words, the images, the story–even the freshest of poetry newbies can appreciate a great poem without "getting it."

Look at the poem. The poet's words should paint a picture. Breathe it in. Don't be intimidated by rhyme–or a lack of rhyme. Run the poem through your fingers–let the story unwind. Don't be afraid to read it again. And again. A good poem can read a different way each time, like the slivers of colour in a crystal held up to the sun.

There's a poem for everyone, and the power of a good poet's technique should speak to anyone, if only a little bit.

Two good books to check out: *How Does a Poem Mean?* by John Ciardi, and *How to Read a Poem: And Fall in Love with Poetry* by Edward Hirsch. Both books are fun, easy to read, and extremely useful in starting a lifelong love affair with poetry.

– Briony Smith

TUNDRA

1.
Picture me: on the tundra,
the ground moist and sucking at my steps,
the rise so gentle.

At this pace I will walk
and never be out of sight.

2.
I have dreamt of a land
this open, this light,
the sun revolving around my head.

3.
In this land where you can hear for miles, the migration
of caribou is small thunder across my chest,
more trembling than sound.

Tracks, braille for the wind to read.

4.
Barrenland–
on my knees I have found
swaths of arctic flowers.

5.
Muskox lumber under the weight of ice-age
memory. The only animals
never to seek shelter from the cold
break into a run when my boots clatter over loose rock.

This is as close as I will get:
handfuls of qiviut, fine under-wool,
the warmest and softest,
caught in the tattered shrubs.

6.
Wind–
ceaseless.

Dictating when I can and cannot travel.
Keeping me close to the ground.

7.
I wake to find tracks outside my tent door:
the perfect silence of the animal
that has passed me by.

–Melanie Siebert

The White Birds

At dawn he looks East across the lake,
calm as a sleeper woken from an easy dream.
In the absence of wind the bay becomes forest; pines
arch under the low fog. A note glides out the mouth
of the bay–a call to the mist, the dawn–
from the edge of the forest: his voice.

When he woke, the moon hung round as a voice
over the trees, beading the lake
like teeth in a dark face when the mouth
smiles or leers. He woke to a dream
of stars–still clear before the dawn–
giving and receding above the shifting pines

that whisper go, but he is alone beneath a pine
that hardens against the chill voice
of autumn coming. The hollow dawn
cups him between the glass sky and the lake–
a cloche that holds him in a dream
he doesn't wake from. So he tilts his mouth

to the first light running smooth as vermouth
over the water, the trees; needles from the pines
snap like fish bones under him. This dream
he wakes to is the cold ground, the air his voice
pierces, the moths that stutter toward the lake
when he tears the silence of the red dawn.

But now, from the East, pursuing dawn:
two lines of white birds. His mouth
opens to echo their calls across the still lake
that mirrors the flock's sweep between the brooding pines.
Their path bends to him, to his voice,
toward the mute inverted pines to meet the dream

birds that rise from the water below. His dream
fades with the steam rising with the dawn
warmth as they land; the lake trails behind their voices
like silk on a thread. They turn their mouths
to smooth their white wings and drift silent as fog to the pines
along the shore. He steps into the lake,

into the image of his own feathers, pale as the dream of a misted lake
when dawn breaks on a crown of pines
and a white bird casts his voice to the moon's closing mouth.

–Emily McGiffin

Wyoming Wind

Sunburned, yes, but this is 1945 and Cole Fischer presses his cold body against the heat of the engine, his body a starfish on the hood of Jeremiah's Ford–bathwater green.
"I am an airplane," the thick-lipped man sings, delirious, knee-deep in snow. Cole, the eldest of the Fischer twins but not yet 25 lunges again at the car, drapes his body over the hood and snaps his head up. He looks at his reflection through the dashboard. "War ain't over, yet."
"Git the fuck oudda the way," Jeremiah growls from behind the wheel and revs the engine, sends bits of black snow like spit. "You got a wife now, Cole. You fuck-up, you hooch." He shifts into reverse and the car rips away from his brother, leaves the man lonely as a scarecrow in the white field.
"If ya'd run me over, Jerry," Cole sputters, puts his hands to his chapped face, body bent diagonal in the wind.

–Marjorie Celona

When My Lover, The Bastard, Leaves to Live in Paris for Two Months, Even The *Moonlight Sonata* sounds Cancer Bumpy.

Look here, though I shuffle like a suitcase, or a husband,
I am fish-ill though not yet cold, and somehow still standing
like dense earbones. And look here, though you've left me
like my understanding of hot milk in Abbeys, you still swing
through my mind like a scabbed knee through air-conditioned rooms.

Look here, I am well, even if I still haven't memorized
all the various sounds of emergency response units.
When I'm left alone in rooms that have drains,
my brain still opens like a knee up and into
a chair. And even though these drains please me,
clumps of my hair do not always fall fast enough
to slide through before the water does.

When I'm in our library, I always browse
for passages in books that'll inform me
on the topic of gramophones; I think
that reading about the evolution of music
may help me to stop splaying my arms
open like a Congo apron.
Also, if my arms are closed like small pockets
I may stop losing and finding and losing
my gloves while editing the relative clauses
in your letters. I've been eating quite a few raisins,
and they must be good for me, though I'm not sure how.

You've always encouraged me to become more
of a hypochondriac, like yourself, for example;
you have a doctor for every part of your body.
However, the fire engine, the ambulance,
and the police siren, all have time shares
in your encouragement for me.

And me? I am well; since your last letter,
I've been beating dust from pillows;
I've been vacuuming more than I ever
vacuumed while you were here.
I've domesticated myself, I've become
organized like a numbered stanza,
but just one, thank you.

When you said I couldn't stay in our apartment
while you were gone, because your daughter
would be on her honeymoon, and she'd be having
it off with her husband in our bed, my nose hairs
flared wide and fast like the Autobahn; though
why did I find picturing your daughter
having It off in our bed
so easy, like wearing the same panties
for three days straight? All of this must
have something to do with the number
of raisins I've been eating lately. Just think of me,
me as poor religion with my skirts too long.

All I ever wanted to be was an altar boy, curing
diseases like an innocent little flipbook. If I told
you as much, this week would have snapped
from your arm like a hospital bracelet, and you
would have said you always thought I had a face
for the Vatican–if not for the longest time.

–Caroline Szpak

Note Home
Pass Creek Fire Tower, 2003

Smoked in from how many wildfires
now burning out of control? Every rise and crease
blue-grey, the forests surrounding me overdue . . .
The dog pulls bones from the stand of black spruce–
this morning she came from the bush with a woodpecker,
wings dotted white, a yellow stripe between bead eyes.
The Fox Creek sector boss thinks the dog's in a grizzly cache,
says I should dig up the mushrooms blooming in moose scat
or I'll have a bear in the yard, instead of one that roams the driveway
from cut block to cut block. The coyotes
have stopped shitting on the doorstep.
I found a flycatcher belly-up below the kitchen window,
its chest the smallest bit of green.
The humidity's dropped: no lightning for days–
Lawnmower sparks, truck exhaust, cigarette butts. Anything
could break this waiting.

–Emilia Nielsen

Phish Tour. Lot Four. Dawn.

the dust pulls right down on your breath, splays on his neck, as you, sweat dry, flip
the hair off his forehead and sigh, long as the gorged-out river under those cliffs painted
pink and almost blue with the touch
of morning, you scratch your last eye
open and pull a stretch out over the south,
over the bent-up stages and stinking cans and
awake, you are alone,
just you and the coughing babies and dogs and the greyest
whisper of cloud to the north you push up, push up,
hear the cry from your kidneys, your mouth still full
of wool and swollen sore and you look him over,
matted and sprawled out there and it isn't until he blinks,
one, two, three, before he sees you, before you remember
how you grabbed him, his fingers snaked into yours and under your dress,
somewhere, gave you chills, how the desert blew and blew
in your faces lifted, howling together in misshapen voices
gravel rough, how you fell, tangled in the dirt
and scraped your shins and pebbled your palms,
the crunch of feet beside your twisting twisting bodies and now
scabs run down your legs, your nostrils burn, your belly
sinks in, empty-sad, knowing this morning you can be nothing
to each other but resemblance; two fingers
of tequila left in the half-tipped bottle beside him and he groans,
low, to call you back, to crawl back under his glue blue tarp and hold him
hard and whisper his name in his ear again and again, while the stars
blow out and his dirty dull hair slides over his eyes and you look him over,
solid, and inhale sharp, you stand right there and reach out
and reach up to the moon and by god, if you had a hat
you'd tip it off to that slice of a moon just edging away,
just disintegrating into the dawn like it doesn't matter,
like it can't matter if you steal away with a boy's tequila and scratchy jean jacket and
pitch off your shirt, sour, and stride bare-chested past hundreds of tarps and tents and
scattered bodies, and look out to the track all dust all dust just settled, just waiting
for another wake up,
a little pick-me-up,
to get kicked up once again

–Leah Bailly

Machines make moving music

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Immaculate Machine plays music that sticks in your head, combining three-part melodies and raucous shouts, hummingbird-speed guitar with keyboard licks. Brooke Gallupe –accompanied by Kathryn Calder on keyboards and Luke Kozlowski on drums–offers the somewhat amorphous label "indie-pop" to describe their sound.

"It's rock 'n' roll enough to be called pop, independent enough to be called indie," he says.

Let's take that further: they're political without being preachy, indie-rock without the pretentious posturing and cocaine addictions. Lovely, sad vocals are buoyed up with guitar feedback and hypnotic keyboards. All three sing and write, and no, they don't miss having a bassist–Calder plays the bassline on her keyboards and does a fine job.

Their music is about love and political dissent, but we ain't talkin' bout no angry, bearded communists here.

"It's not music to burn your flag to," says Gallupe.

Instead, they offer a "mildly ironic critique of consumer lifestyles." As for the band's name, it was lifted from a Paul Simon song, but the choice was made pretty much at random, Gallupe says.

It all sounds great, but does it make you want to dance?

Mostly, although tracks like "Death of a Rockstar," from their upcoming album *Transporter*, feature morose lyrics that make you feel more like crying into your beer. Still, judging by the crowd's reaction at their recent show at Lucky Bar, most college kids are unfazed by the gloomy undertow of the music and are happy to bop away.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Brooke Gallupe, Kathryn Calder and Luke Kozlowski from the Immaculate Machine are busy preparing for a cross-Canada tour.

The past year has been a slow climb towards success for the band, who got their start with a weekly, unpaid gig at a lowly sports bar. After experimenting with genres from '60s rhythm & blues to folksy acoustic numbers, the band settled on their current sound, and now count themselves a part of the local independent scene. Gallupe runs off names like Ghosts, Run Chico Run and The Fine Options as local comrades.

Now they're gearing up for their next cross-country tour. They're so set, all they need is an immaculate bus.

Immaculate Machine's CD release party is on May 1 at Second Story Books, with local band Ghosts. Tickets available in advance from Ditch Records.

There's nothing pop about Iggy

BY RICHARD MCDEVITT

Iggy Pop
Skull Ring
EMI

Even before Iggy Pop was Iggy Pop, he belonged to the band that started it all–the Stooges. That was 35 years ago. With the release of his new album Skull Ring, Iggy proves that comebacks are possible and possibly quite good.

Currently Iggy lives in Miami. He's 56 years old and married to a woman 25 years younger than him. It's been a long time since he used to get blowjobs and shoot up on stage. Stories about Iggy's debauchery are legendary. Frankly, it's a little surprising that the guy has made it this far.

In the late 1960s, Iggy, along with Lou Reed, Bowie and MC5, was crucial to the development of punk rock. Listening back to the Stooges first two records, 1969's self-titled debut and 1970's *Fun House*, confirms that it was in fact punk rock–they just hadn't found a proper name for it. This was taking place eight years before the actual punk explosion of 1977.

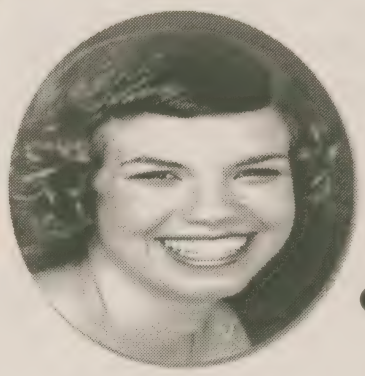
The chronicle of Iggy's time during the late '70s, '80s and '90s is long and tedious: hospital visits, drug abuse, a separation from the Stooges, mental hospitals, a few good records with Bowie, lots of rehab, not many hits but a strong fan base. *Trainspotting*'s revival of "Lust for Life" gave Iggy a boost in the '90s, yet failed to translate to record sales on his efforts of this century.

With his new release *Skull Ring*, Iggy got innovative. He stole a page out of the hip-hop world and did a collaboration album. It's a surprising roster of guests. Canada's queen of the underground, Peaches, jives well on an album with lyrics about "fast cars and hot chicks" in the title track. But while Peaches discards her hypersexual vulgarity-shtick for a fast lo-fi track about getting motivated to see a concert, aptly titled "Rock Show," Green Day's two offerings maintain their punchy brand of sound and contain some of Iggy's best vocal performances.

The record still manages to exude some of Iggy's older trademarks and attitudes–he's brash as ever.

It's not hard to see that Iggy's ego has remained large and healthy over the years. In the jaunty "Here Comes the Summer," he finds time sing about penises and on the next track, "Motor Inn" Iggy depicts the sleazy past time of picking up chicks in cheap hotels. It's strangely refreshing to hear a guy who's been through everything the rock 'n' roll life has to offer sing about private parts and sleeping around in such jovial manner.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of *Skull Ring* is the reunion of Iggy with the Stooges. The thriving garage rock trend has renewed interest in the early proto-punk bands of Iggy's early days. For now it's just cool to see a little bit of history reunite and prove that it's possible to still rock after 50.



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Hot man makeover action

by Chris Sheaff

What would happen if you took a newspaper geek–a self-professed "fashion drop-out"–and changed him into a chic metrosexual ladies man?

Like most people working in media, *Martlet* editor John Thompson works too hard. He hasn't had time to meet new people or find a girlfriend, and he admits he's let his appearance go. With graduation fast approaching, his calendar has freed up–it's time to do something about it.

The plan is simple: consult with a couple of fashion-savvy girls, give the man a makeover and set him loose at a social event where he can woo some ladies.

Min-Hee Kim photo

Smelling for pheremones and possible sexiness on John.

Horia Coman photo

John in stylin' duds at the Grad Party: experiment underway.

Before

We begin with a control study. I led the "Before" John around campus, stopping random girls and asking them how he looked, dressed and smelled.

April Reed found his outfit–a faded black T-shirt, beige cargos and old hiking boots–pretty bland. Emily and Aja thought John was good raw material, describing his physique as "trim and buff," but Aja considered the heavy beard a big turn-off. "It says I've been working in the bush for 10 weeks and I've been studying insects and I don't care about shaving and there's no woman in a ten mile radius."

They said John looked like a hippie and recommended he change his outfit unless he wanted a hippie chick.

We also asked our subjects to smell John. Responses ranged from neutral to pleasant. I asked Kaisha and her friend Kaz just how important physical appearance was and they replied that it's a big deal because it's the first thing you see.

"It will get you through the door," Kaisha explained, "but if there's nothing else to back it up you won't get very far."

The makeover

John was sent for a haircut and he promised to trim his beard; the resulting look was much cleaner and more attractive.

We met with our fashion consultants Briony Smith and Becky Zak to pick out a new outfit for John. As Becky explained, a person's appearance tells you a lot–John, for instance, doesn't know how to stand out.

"How is he going to get judged [for] his mind if people ignore him because he blends into the crowd? You don't want to get cut out in the first round," she says.

Briony compared the process to buying stocks: when you're looking for a mate you're asking yourself "what stocks look good? what do I want to invest in?"

Becky agreed, "It's like the facade of a house: if the front is a broken down shanty you're not going to walk in because you think it's unsafe, like the roof's going to cave in even though maybe there's a fireplace, cozy chair and a warm cup of cocoa inside."

We arrive at Club Monaco and John notices a pair of cargo pants he likes, but Briony tells him not to bother at this stage of his fashion development. "People who wear those pants wear them because they know what they're doing," she explains and adds, in reference to his own cargos, "You're wearing those because they're pants."

"Colour is your friend," Becky says. "The right colours help you stand out in a crowd, while the wrong colours wash you out."

Becky holds a pastel T-shirt up. "No, too advanced for John" Briony responds.

"Wow, this is just like martial arts!" John chuckles.

The girls have him try on the same shirt in two different sizes until they find just the right fit–it hugs your body but isn't too tight.

"You can't go too large or else the shirt just looks like a sack," Becky explains.

The length of the pants is important too. The girls instruct John that pants should be longer than he thinks, they should sit on his shoe and bunch a little.

The girls adjust the layering of his outfit, rolling up his sleeves. They stand back and survey their handiwork. "You are sooo cute," Becky coos and her voice raises in pitch. "I have a tingle in my bottom!" Briony exclaims and both girls begin to touch him.

They finally decide on a blue striped dress shirt, a navy sweater, a turquoise T-shirt, a pair of dark fashionably frayed jeans and a cute striped canvas belt in grey and baby blue.

John then bought laceless leather shoes with a funky tread, as well as body wash that smells like the sexy cologne Jean-Paul Gaultier for Men.

The party

The event we chose for the grand unveiling was last Saturday's Grad Party. Response to John's makeover was very positive.

One girl claimed that she was shocked at how good John looked. "But you just know there was no way he could put that all together himself," she said after hearing about the makeover.

Later, John spoke with a redhead whose body language suggested that she was flirting with him. As the investigative writer, I asked her some questions in private later.

"Were you physically attracted to the way John looked?"

"Definitely. He was well groomed and I liked the way his shirt collar was sticking out of his sweater. His outfit was chic but not pretentious. When I first saw him, I wasn't sure whether he would have a good personality and figured I'd just have to make up some excuse for sleeping with him later. I thought I'd have to guide him through the whole process," she continued, "but he was great. He's the total package!"

"If John were to make a move tonight, you would be willing to sleep with him?"

"I would be honoured."

I track down John, who "feels like a pygmy being studied in his natural environment," he complained.

"So, how did your conversation with the redhead go?" I asked.

"It was fine. I think she might have been flirting with me."

Might have? She told me she offered to flash John right there.

"I got some pretty clear signals. She repeated that I was extremely good looking and said that she was my new number one fan," John said.

Thus, it appears that his makeover was a success. It wasn't common for a lady to offer John a one night stand, and he didn't even have to work for it, which is a remarkable feat for a man who had until recently cast a wary eye toward fashion.

The day after

The next morning John slouched in for his debriefing dressed in nearly the same outfit he'd been wearing for the past three days: a faded black T-shirt, green hiking vest and grey trousers.

"I feel a little bit like Cinderella after the ball!" he told me.

"How do you feel about the whole experience?"

"It was quite affirming that women actually found me attractive."

John's attitude toward fashion was formerly quite negative and he described people who gave it a lot of attention as "vain" and "narcissistic." Had this changed?

"Yes, the wall between fashion and art has broken down for me. Instead of rejecting it as negative, now I see it as potentially positive," he said. "The main change I've noticed is that I've always been acutely aware of how women's clothes affect their looks, but now I do it with men, too." He admits to now checking to see if guy's pants are form-fitted.

When asked whether he'd keep up the new look, John replied it would be a gradual integration. "I'll see whether I can advance another belt or two in fashion."

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Packaged sunshine

Australian band Sekiden brings summer to Victoria

by Vanessa Neuman

Can there be anything cuter than a band from Australia, whose members are a brother-sister team and their high school friend, and whose most recent CD features a cartoon of a small, greenish monster with a broken heart? Probably not, especially when you add the fact that their music, a bouncy blend of keys, guitar and drums, is pop in all the right ways.

They're sweet without being sugary, pop without the mainstream cheese. They make you want to eat ice cream in the sun, have a water fight with all your friends and get it on with someone sexy. They're bottled summer and they're called Sekiden.

They're somewhere north of Detroit, heading towards Kentucky when the interview happens. It's just one more day on a North American tour of more than 70 shows, but Simon Graydon sounds wide-awake and chipper despite the fact that it's only 11 in the morning (not typically the best time to talk to a musician). They're currently touring with the band Kiddo, but they've also played with the FemBots and when they get to Victoria on April 16 they will reunite once again with their friends and fellow label mates, the Salteens, from Vancouver.

The Salteens–or some of them–actually own the record label, Boompa Records, and are probably one of the reasons that Sekiden is here on this tour. They met the band in Australia when the two groups were touring in 2001 with the band Jebidiah, and then hooked up again when Sekiden came over to perform at last year's North by Northeast music showcase in Toronto. The rest just came easy.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Seja and Merko Vogel, and Simon Graydon of Aussie band Sekiden.

Touring with the Salteens, says Graydon, is like "being at a school camp." Their stories are filled with pranks and hijinks–from stolen beer to Salteens member Rob Calder dancing on the roof of the tour bus at seven in the morning.

The name Sekiden comes from a Japanese toy manufacturer that made stuff like pellet guns and robots. The company was only around sometime in the 1960s or 1970s, and the band likes the name because it conveys no impression of what their music will sound like.

"Except sometimes maybe [people think we might be] a metal band," laughs Graydon. Even though it's only his voice on the phone, it sounds like he's winking.

During their tours the three band members–Merko and Seja Vogel and Simon Graydon–have picked up on a few things that are different between North America and back home.

According to Graydon, "People are more enthusiastic [here at shows]. Back in Australia they're more reserved and won't lavish compliments."

Apparently, down under a nonchalant, "That was pretty good" is about all you can hope for. But before we go patting ourselves on the backs for being more appreciative of music, North American life is not all a bed of roses. Graydon says things seem tenser, and people are more guarded in the streets, especially in the States.

Don't worry about Sekiden getting too down about the tension. They seem in no danger of losing their cheerful demeanor, and when they bounce into town bringing their own brand of music they say is best likened to a mix of the Cars and the Ramones, the sun will shine inside Logan's pub, no matter what the weather does outside.

Sekiden plays with the Salteens on April 16 at Logan's Pub.

Top 5 times for $5

by Zoë Bake-Paterson

1. Tiptoe through the tulips at the Government House Gardens.

The Gardens on Rockland St. are the best place to feed ducks in the city. But be careful–these quacking beasts are known to swarm. The plot is fashioned after a proper English garden, complete with gazebo, rose garden and herb garden. For those who enjoy a wilder setting, tour the Garry Oak meadow in all its scrubbiness.

The gardens are also the best place to do drugs outside.

2. Eavesdrop on the juiciest tidbits in town at the Victoria courthouse cafeteria. For the low, low price of a coffee, you can tune in to the most secret secrets in town. Better yet, fulfill your Perry Mason fantasies and wander into a courtroom for awhile.

Many *Martlet* staff say that question period at the Legislature building is much more entertaining than your run-of-the-mill court proceeding, so check that out, too.

3. Dance footloose and free to '80s rock Wednesday nights at Evolution, with no cover before 10 p.m. and $2 drinks!

This place gets packed. But homos beware. Though lesbians may make-out on the dance floor, some who crowd this joint bully the queer faction.

Other theme nights include Monday metal music at Logan's, Drag Queen Bingo at Prism on Wednesdays, Karaoke at Felicita's on Thursday, and Sunday poetry nights at the James Bay Inn.

4. Visit the Inner Harbour causeway and be entertained by the buskers, who can be either blissfully great or hideously humourous. Watch out for the mimes–at times reaching half a dozen in a four block radius–as they are known to kiss strangers walking by. This is also the best place in town to people-watch, especially on hot days when the sun draws those in scanty clothes!

5. If you need cash this bad, why not try life modelling? Posing buck-naked for a starving artist is bold, creative and an opportunity to strut your stuff. There are a thousand artists in town, plus three art schools (UVic, Camosun and Western Academy of photography) and many more art collectives. Just be prepared to strip. And a word of advice–stretch well before you go and try not to stare the artists in the eye.

Other top cheap hits:

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Walk the labyrinth outside of Christ Church Cathedral (the big stone one on Blanshard).

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Walk along Dallas Road with hot chocolate (or other appropriate beverage), or start a bonfire at the beach (be warned–this is illegal).

Walk, bike or bus to a local park such as the breakwater or Beacon Hill. Bonus points for visiting the petting zoo at Beacon Hill, where they have a goat run at closing time.

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Tim Burton reels in a big one

by Max Lamb

Tim Burton has one of the most unbalanced line-ups of films to his credit. When he goes for his own vision, he creates such great works as *Edward Scissorhands*, *Beetlejuice*, and *Ed Wood*. His fans, awaiting another twisted conception of humanity from the filmmaker, had to endure the likes of *Mars Attacks* and *Planet of the Apes* since then. Instead of taking the dark road back to *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, Burton found a happy medium between his madness and sentimentality in *Big Fish*.

The film, based on the novel by Daniel Wallace, stars Albert Finney as Edward Bloom, an old man dying of cancer. William Bloom, played skillfully by Billy Crudup, is Edward's son and has never known the truth behind his father's past. Edward told tall tales of his personal history and William grew tired of hearing lies. In one last chance to reconcile, he seeks out his father to learn the distinction between Edward's facts and fictions.

Interlaced with the movie's reality are scenes of Edward's life story, the tall tales or "big fish" fables that William grew up hearing.

This is what makes the film ideal for Burton. With the scenes going back and forth from past to present, a young Edward Bloom (played by Ewan MacGregor) travels and searches for his purpose in life. In these flashbacks, Edward tames a giant, learns of his future from a witch, fends off a werewolf and finds the love of his life. The woman he falls for is Sandra (Alison Lohman), a college girl from Alabama who is occupied with a previous marriage proposal.

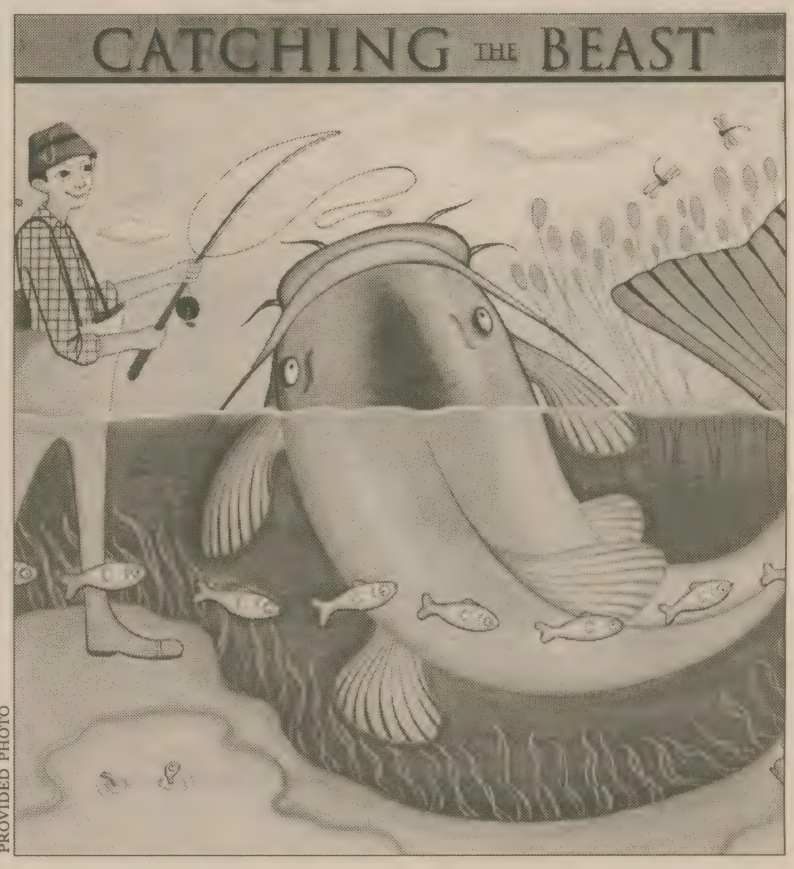
Though every story isn't essential to the progression of the film, they exist only to capture the narratives of the older Edward. One scene chronicles Edward's birth, where he pops out of his mother and slides a hundred feet on the hallway floor before finally getting picked up by a hospital attendant. This scene serves no purpose in the story, but it is the first exaggeration of truth in Big Fish and lets the audience know what they're in for.

The movie has an amazing degree of sentimentality in it, which Burton handles surprisingly well. Another scene shows the older Edward soaking in a bathtub with all of his clothes on.

His wife (the older version played by Jessica Lange) joins him in the tub, and they embrace as she says, "I don't think I'll ever dry out." This is one of the smaller segments of the film, and it is arguably the best as it creates a tragic moment of heartfelt emotion. Both Finney and Lange are deserving of supporting actor nods in the Oscar race, and Burton has made a film worthy of the best picture award.

He has taken on a project that was potentially too epic and grand to direct, and came out with his masterpiece, his Big Fish.

Big Fish *plays at Cinecenta on April 11 and 12.*



PROVIDED PHOTO

Ewan McGregor, in the form of a whimsical drawing, catches a *Big Fish*.

Don't fear the Hilfiger

by Daniel Saunders

Pattern Recognition
William Gibson
Berkley Books

The people in *Pattern Recognition*, William Gibson's first novel to be set in the present day, are not like you and me.

They can identify Czech-made imitation Prada from across the room. They hunt down ancient Sinclair computers and hand-wire them together for an art exhibit. These characters care deeply about the specifics of the objects in their lives. They're way out on the bleeding edge. Without the science-fiction filter, Gibson's real subject becomes clear: where brand-fixated high-fashion snobs overlap with obsessive collector geeks.

Gibson's heroine, at least, has an excuse. Cayce Pollard has an allergy to brands; it is so severe that a pile of Tommy Hilfiger clothing can induce a panic attack if she wanders too close. She has a phobia of the Michelin man.

The flipside of this sensitivity is that she can tell instinctively whether a logo or marketing concept will catch on. They bring her a squiggle which is a new trademark concept for the "world's second largest shoe manufacturer," and all she has to say is "yes" or "no." Her contract specifies they can't even ask for a reason. The first part of the novel is a quick blast through the trendsetting side of marketing, from viral marketing to cool hunting, like a prose version of No Logo told from the point of view of the creative predators.

It's Cayce's other life that sets the plot in motion. Cayce is part of an online cult fascinated by an enigmatic series of video clips being released anonymously onto the Internet. Though out of order, they seem to show a pan along an unknown beach followed by a man and woman kissing in a doorway. Something about the footage is so haunting that it has captivated people all over the world.

In following the "footagehead" phenomenon, Gibson gets to revel in netspeak, an argot richer than the fake one he invented years ago for his cyberpunk novels. It's surprising to see how untrammelled this territory is, even for novels written in 2003. Cayce is always checking her hotmail, and several times the plot is moved along by googling.

Is the footage decades old, or a work still in progress? Is it by a single genius, or a collective? Cayce gets commissioned by individuals with suspicious motives–they're in marketing–to track down the answers. Her journey takes her to London and Moscow, with an interlude in Japan reminiscent of *Lost in Translation*.

Along the way she meets Russian billionaires, former surveillance spooks, punk artists, code crackers, and various connoisseurs of esoterica–all of whom tend to talk like the briefing scene in a high-tech suspense movie, wry and terse. Gibson's strong point has never been people. It's also a little hard to care about characters so acutely aware of the brand of sunglasses they're wearing.

The real entertainment is in seeing how the author throws his normal process in reverse. Instead of inventing a future society and then choosing design details to make you believe in it, here he takes real-life details to learn about the society they came from. The book is filled with minute descriptions of the inside of airplanes and hotel rooms, how a Russian Starbucks knockoff gets it subtly wrong. What does a massively ornate Soviet metro station tell you about that society? How about a Hello Kitty megastore?

Any given 30 pages of *Pattern Recognition* are really enough to get the message, but like the middle section of the film *The Ring*, the unravelling mystery of the video is enough to keep you reading to the end–that and the objects along the way.

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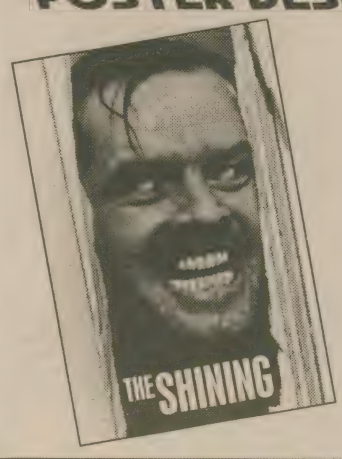

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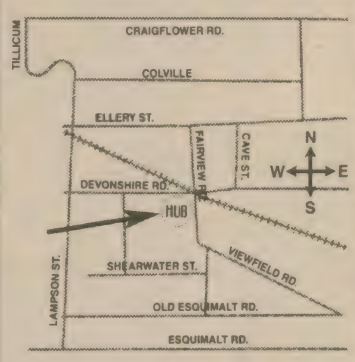

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The Vikes year in Review

From Adamson, Charles Colin (cross country) to Wish, Tyler (rugby) the highs, the lows and the sweet sweet glorious victories of UVic's varsity athletes in 2003–2004.

BY TOM GRAINGER, SARAH WIEBE AND RICHARD WARNICA

PROVIDED PHOTO

Lauren MacLean, above left, was named a CIS All-Canadian and the MVP of the CIS national championship tournament.

NIC HUME PHOTO

The women's varsity rowing team, above, was once again the pick of the Canadian litter, winning the University Rowing Championship and dominating the annual Brown Cup agaisnt UBC.

Women's field hockey

Varsity women's field hockey in Canada is much like international women's ice hockey; though lots of teams compete, only two are competitive.

On the ice it's Canada and the USA, on the field it's UVic and UBC.

So even though the UVic women's field hockey team entered this season without key elements from last year's CIS national championship squad and with nine players in their first or second year, a repeat of last year's final against the Thunderbirds was always in the cards.

No one then was shocked when, on November 2, the two cross-Strait rivals, who have shared the last seven national titles between them, met in the national final in Oakville Ontario.

The weather, more than either team, dominated the final. A 0–0 draw ended in a strokes shoot-out, 3–2 win for the Thunderbirds, leaving the Vikes with a silver medal.

Even though the team is losing Lauren MacLean, one of Canada's best players to graduation, Coach Lynne Beecroft believes that the team will be more cohesive and more successful next season.

Since the only thing more successful than silver is gold, expectations for field hockey are high.

Rowing

Once again this season, the Vikes rowing teams proved to be Canada's best. The women captured their seventh straight Canadian title at the 2003 CIS championships in November at Elk Lake, with the men not far behind, finishing second only to Brock university.

The teams capped off their season in the annual Brown Cup Challenge on March 27, going head-to-head with the UBC Thunderbirds. The men's varsity eight-man team earned their 13th consecutive victory over the Thunderbirds in the 2.8 km race, stretching down the Gorge waterway from the Tillicum Narrows to the Johnson St. bridge. The UVic women captured their 12th straight victory, defeating the T-Birds by 9.45 seconds.

Cross Country/ Track

The track and cross country teams spent the season traveling to invitational tournaments around Canada and the northwestern United States in preparation for, and following, the CIS Canadian championships.

In Track and Field, UVic competed at the CIS championships last month at the University of Windsor. Josh Henderson won a bronze medal in the 600-metre sprints to go along with his silver medal in the 4x800-metre relay. Craig Babiuk, Glenn Saqui, and Scott Kennedy shared the silver with Henderson. The Vikes women's best showing was in the 4x800-metre relay, where they finished sixth overall.

The CIS Cross Country championships were held at the University of New Brunswick in Moncton. With 60-100 kilometre winds and temperatures dropping to a wind chill of -12 degrees Celsius, the Vikes women pulled off a fourth-place overall finish while the men finished sixth.

Continued on next page

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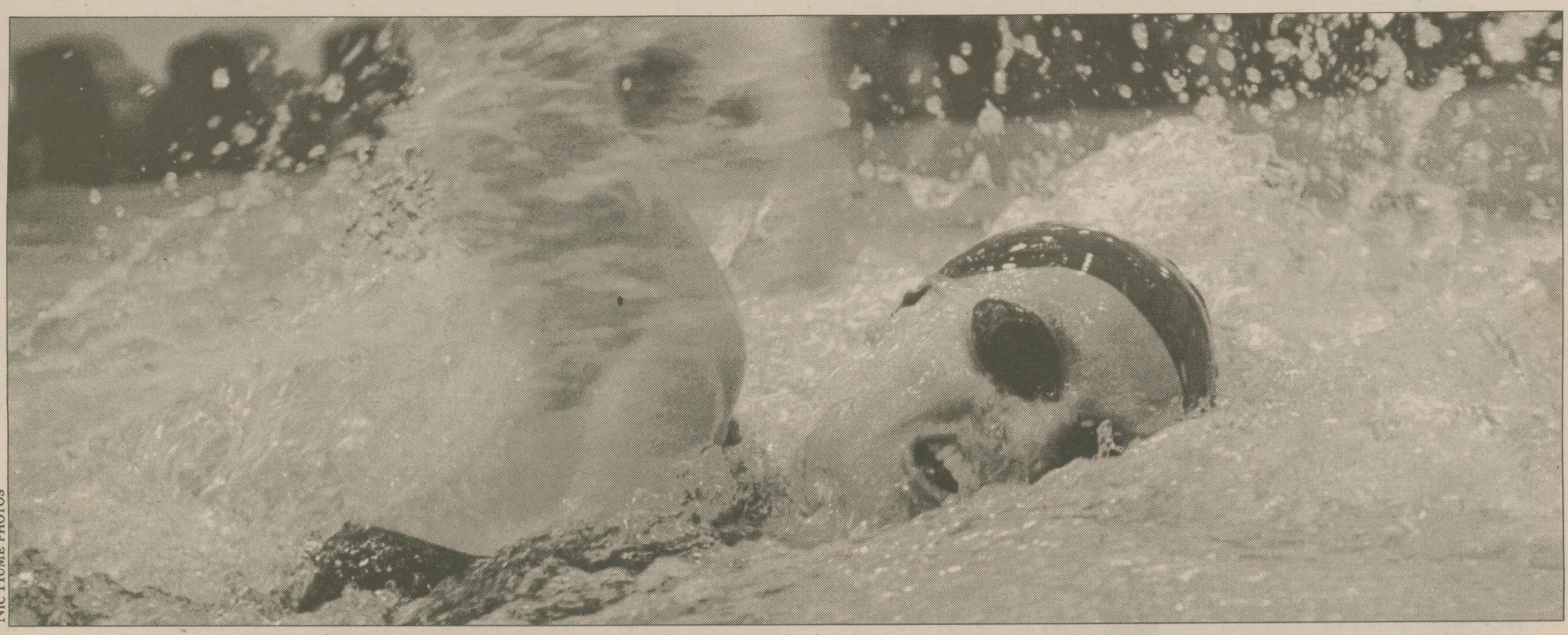


Nic Hume photos

Karley Stutzel, above, won the Vikes' only medals at last March's CIS National Championships. Stutzel took bronze medals in the 400- and 800-metre freestyle events.

Swimming

The swimming season for the Vikes started on a bright note when they announced a new partnership with the Pacific Coast Swimming Club to further develop the sport in Victoria.

Out of the boardroom and in the pool, the Vikes hosted the Canada West swimming championships in January. UVic's Karley Stutzel crushed the existing Canada West 800-metre Freestyle record by over four seconds, setting the new bar at 8:41.24. At the CIS championships in March, Stutzel won bronze in the women's 400-metre and 800-metre Freestyle events.

Vikes swimmer Stephanie Dixon smashed two 200- and 400-metre Individual Medley disabled world records this year, first at Canada West, and then beating her own 400-metre record again, as well as establishing a 100-metre disabled backstroke record at the CIS championships. In March, Dixon was named UVic's Outstanding Female Athlete for the 2003–2004 academic year.

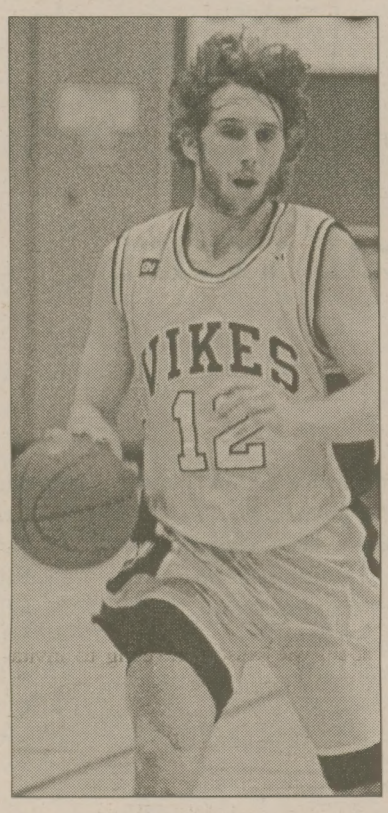
The Vikes star is off to the Paralympics in Athens this summer. She already has five medals at the games (Sydney, 2000) and now has two world records under her belt heading into competition.

Fourth year Vike Dave Creel won two medals at the Can West championships, taking a silver in the 1500-metre freestyle and a bronze in the 400-metre individual medley.

The men's team was hurt this year by the absence of butterfly superstar Jesse Jacks. Jacks, 2002's top ranked Canadian male in the 200-metre butterfly, spent most of the year recovering from a broken wrist, suffered while vacatiõning in Indonesia last summer.

Women's basketball

Coming off a Cinderella season that saw the Vikes bring home the 2002–2003 CIS national title, the squad was expected to be among Canada's best teams and they did not disappoint, spending most of the regular season ranked among the top three in the CIS. UVic finished the regular season with an impressive 13–7 record, good enough for third place in a very tight Canada West conference.



Chris Trumpy, above, was named the Canada West defensive player of the year.

The Vikes, however, were knocked off in the Canada West Quarter Finals by an underdog Simon Fraser University squad in the third game of a best-of-three series.

Dani Everett led the way for the team, averaging 12.7 points-per-game, and was named a 2004 CIS All-Canadian at guard for her efforts. Krystal O'Byrne also took home some hardware, winning UVic's highest athletic honour, the President's Cup, and the CIS Sylvia-Sweeney-TSN award, for combining basketball with academics and community involvement.

Men's basketball

The story of this year's men's basketball team should be a Disney movie. In the first act, heartbreak: the sudden death of coach Guy Vetrie. In the second, the hero: former assistant Craig Beaucamp, suddenly thrust into the spotlight as interim head coach, leading the team on a season-starting six game win streak. (In the role of coach Beauchamp, may we suggest Canadian actor Paul Grossman, or perhaps a beefed up Emilio Estevez).

Then, adversity: the team gets cold and fights for its playoff life. Finally, suspense: a heartbreaking final weekend of the season that sees the Vikes lose a playoff spot to the Trinity Western Spartans on a tiebreak.

Jody Potts, above, in a late-season victory over the UBC Thunderbirds.

And, in the best Disney tradition, a built-in sequel: heaps of returning players, the addition of an inside presence with key recruits Mitch Gudgeon, Matt Kazanowski and Matt Kuzminski, and Canada West's plucky, handsome coach of the year, Craig Beaucamp returning behind the bench. Yes, V2: The Mighty Vikes (2004–2005 UVic Productions) certainly brings with it the promise of a playoff position.

Men's soccer

Do you remember that scene in the first Star Wars movie when the X-Wing is bearing down on the Death Star and the guy in the headphone keeps saying, "almost there, almost there" but the pilot holds on too long and gets blown up? Well, the men's soccer season was sort of like that.

The team played playoff chicken by losing four straight games to start the season before going on a furious 7–0–1 tear, barely missing out on the final playoff spot.

With his team currently in a developmental stage, coach Bruce Wilson has high hopes for future. He expects his team to put more points on the board next season and if my time in sports journalism has taught me anything, it's that more points usually mean more wins.

The women's rugby team fought through injuries all season long.

Matthew Wilson was part of a late-charging men's soccer team.

Women's soccer

The UVic women's soccer team finished the regular season with 9 wins, 2 losses, and 3 ties, putting them in second in the Canada West division. Their trip to nationals, however, was derailed on the frozen fields of the University of Lethbridge. After losing first team All-Canadian Carey Gustafson in the first half of a 2–1 loss to the University of Alberta, the women were forced into a consolation match against the University of Lethbridge, a game they lost 4–3.

In addition to Gustafson's All-Canadian berth, six members of the team were named to the Canada West All-Star team.

Women's rugby

The Vikes women's rugby team hosted the 2003 Canada West Championship in October, dropping the bronze medal game in sudden-death overtime to UBC, 13–10, thus narrowly missing their first-ever birth at the CIS championship.

The Vikes' Jeanie Coates and Sara Postle were both named to the Canada West All-Star team, while Jack Eastbury was named coach of the year.

After the Canada West Championship, the team spent the season competing in the West Coast Premier Division, playing against local club teams. The team was hit hard by the injury bug, especially over the second half of the season, and was forced to continue a player short for much of their final playoff game against Vancouver's Meralomas.

Eastbury, however, was proud of his team, saying in a Vikes press release: "They could have easily given up, faced with the adversity we ha[d], but they never stopped working. We have come a very long way this year."

Men's rugby

The 2003–2004 men's rugby season began with a whimper as the team had a difficult time maintaining a consistent starting line-up. With the program serving as almost a feeder school for the national sevens and fifteens teams, many top players were AWOL in the fall, including scrumhalf Ed Fairhurst who represented Canada at the World Cup in Australia.

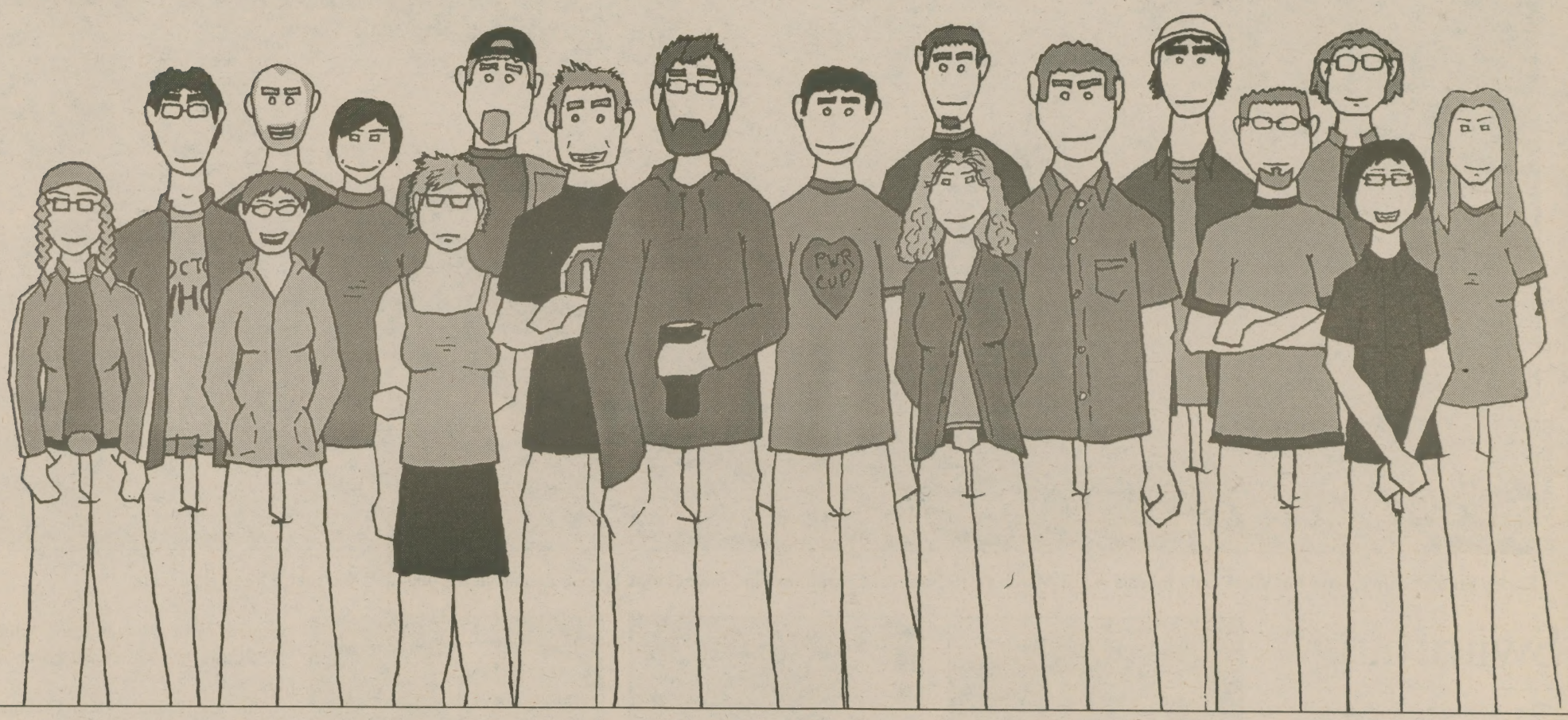
Some late season form saw the Vikes finish the regular season with a 10–8 record and the fourth seed in the upcoming playoffs, which begin this Saturday at Wallace field against White Rock's Bayside.

Women's volleyball

The women's volleyball team had some good showings in their third year as independents in the U.S.-based National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). At the UVic invitational they beat local rivals Camosun College as well as the high ranked Paradise Cove and High Tide clubs.

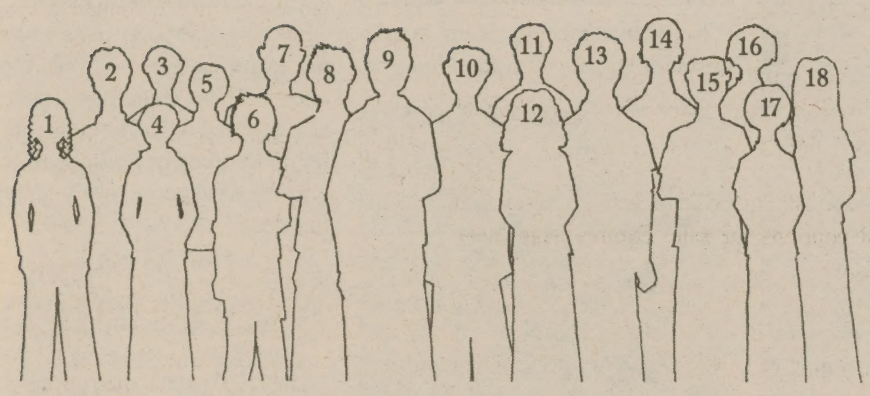
Varsity volleyball at UVic, however, is now a thing of the past. Earlier this week UVic athletics announced they were stripping the team of its level II varsity status for the upcoming season.

In a press release euphemistically titled "Vikes announce change to varsity program," interim Director of Athletics James Keough blamed the change on an inability to provide the program with a competitive schedule and a qualified coach.



Thanks for the great year!

Love, the Martlet staff



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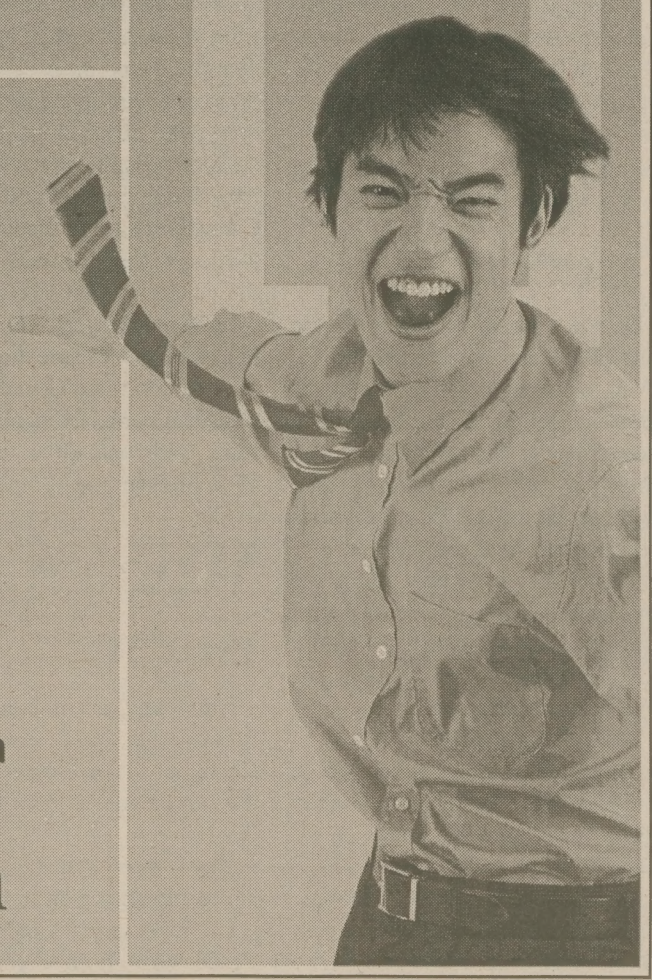

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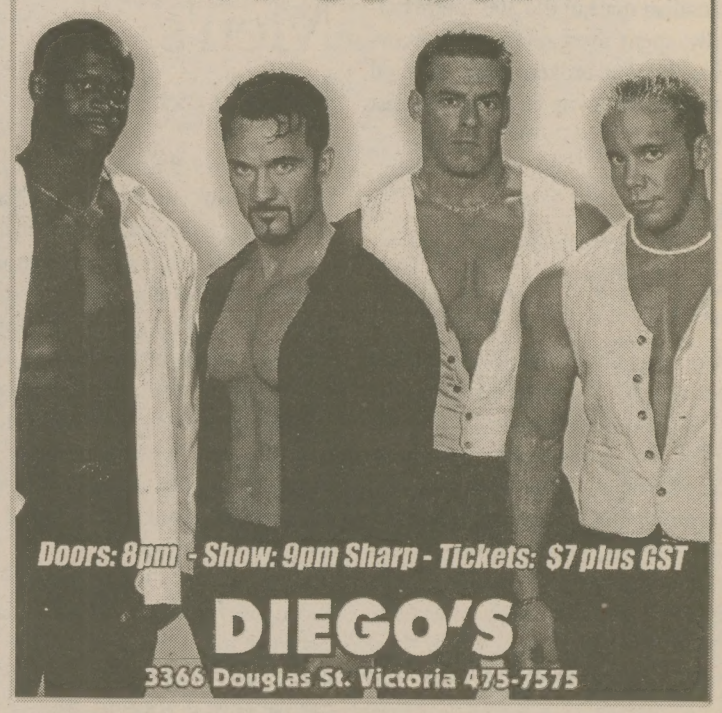

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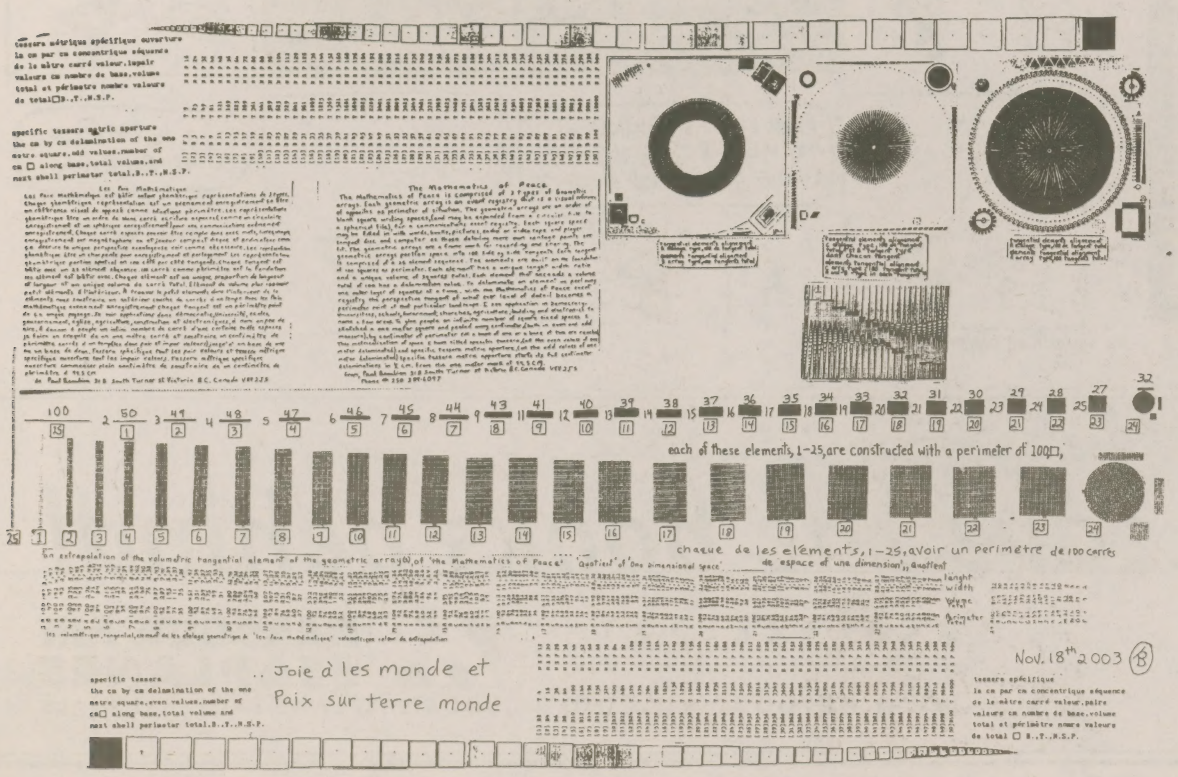
The mathematics of peace

by Paul Beaubien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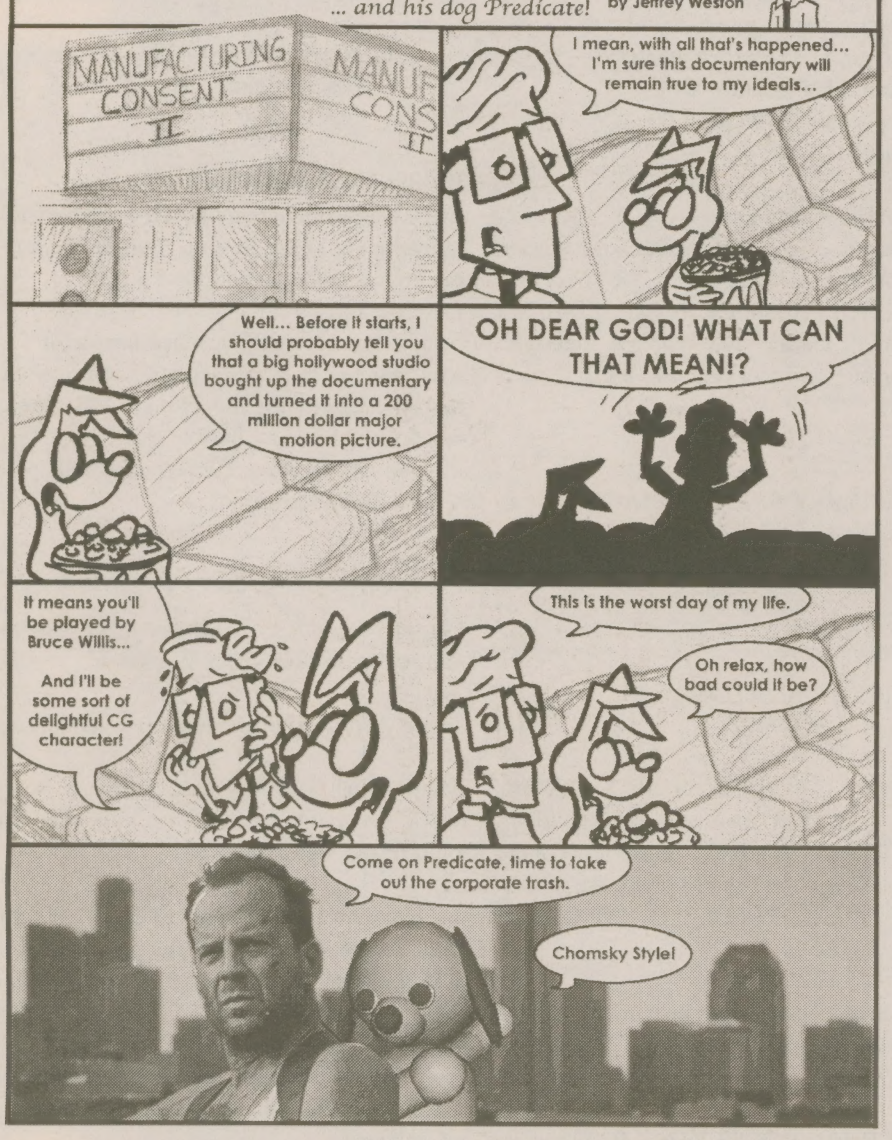
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Well... Before it starts, I should probably tell you that a big hollywood studio bought up the documentary and turned it into a 200 million dollar major motion picture.
OH DEAR GOD! WHAT CAN THAT MEAN!?
It means you'll be played by Bruce Willis...
And I'll be some sort of delightful CG character!
This is the worst day of my life.
Oh relax, how bad could it be?
Come on Predicate, time to take out the corporate trash.
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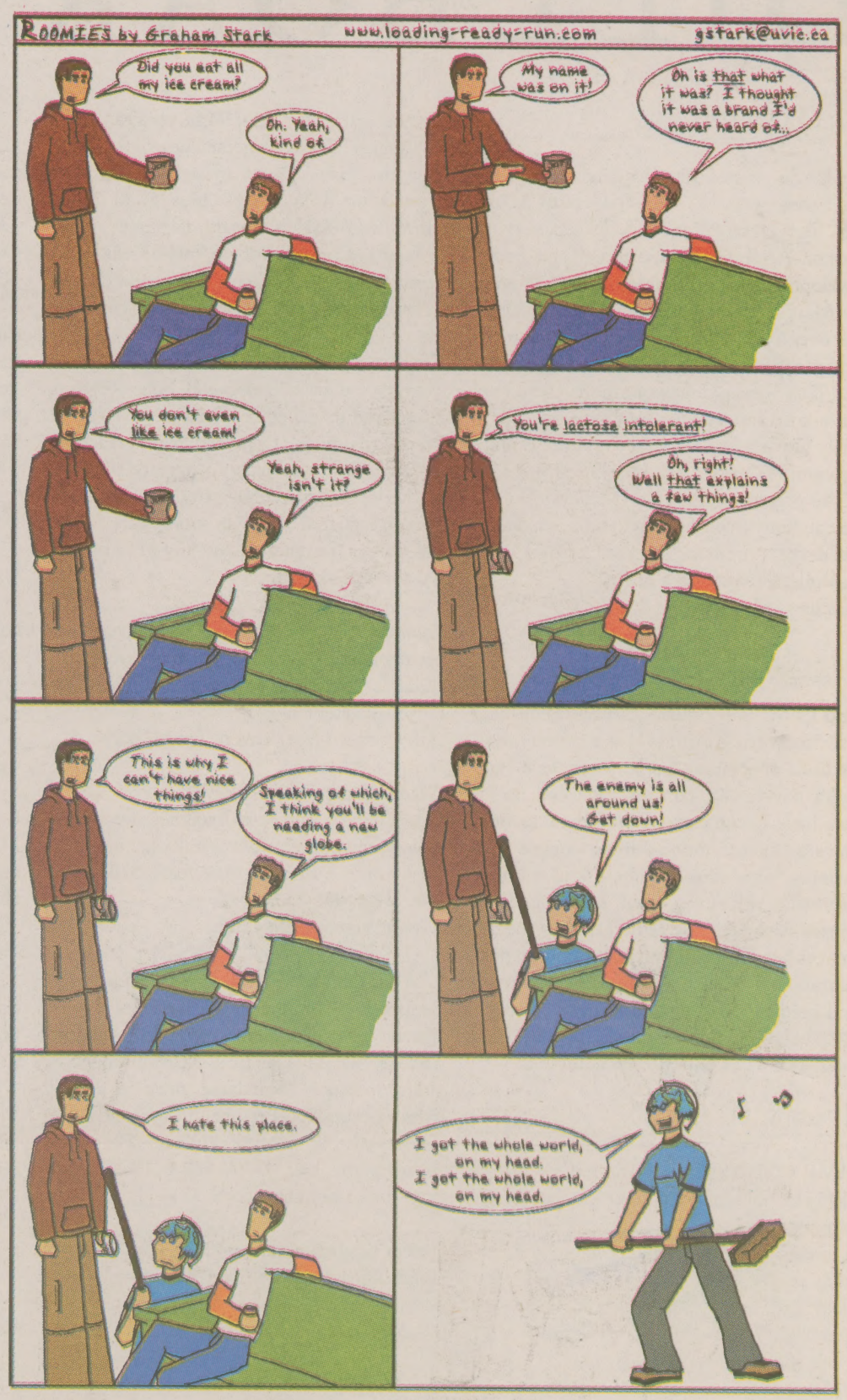
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Oh is that what it was? I thought it was a brand I'd never heard of...
You don't even like ice cream!
Yeah, strange isn't it?
You're lactose intolerant!
Oh, right! Well that explains a few things!
This is why I can't have nice things!
Speaking of which, I think you'll be needing a new globe.
The enemy is all around us! Get down!
I hate this place.
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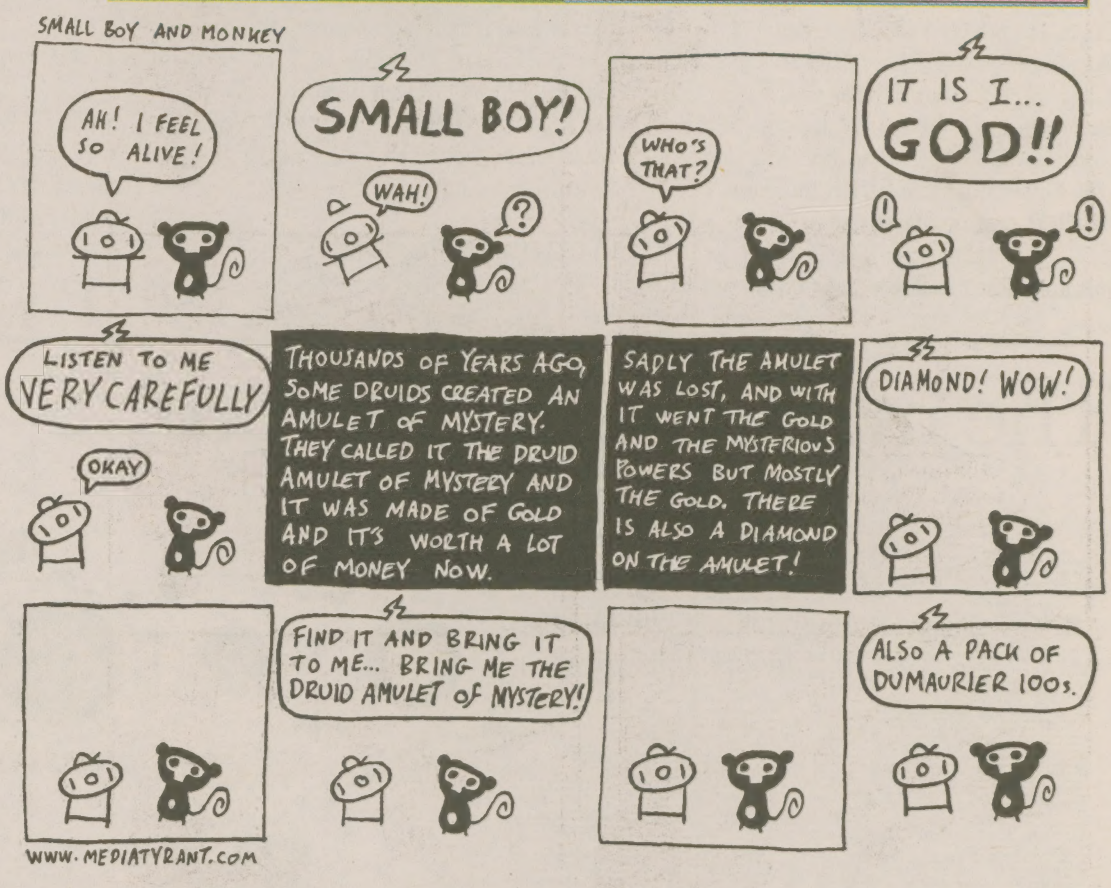
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AH! I FEEL SO ALIVE!
SMALL BOY!
WAH!
WHO'S THAT?
IT IS I... GOD!!
LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY
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